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RELATING THERETO

(FOREIGN, POLITICAL, AND SECRET)

VOL. XVII: 1792-1795

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GENERAL EDITOR'S PREFACE

Under Scheme I of the Publication Programme launched in 1942 by the National Archives of India, Vol. V of the Indian Records Series, Fort William—India House Correspondence, was published in 1949. The present volume is number XVII in the same series. Because of some unavoidable circumstances, the publication of these volumes has unfortunately been delayed. Every effort, however, is being made to issue the remaining volumes in quick succession.

In bringing out this volume it is my pleasant duty to express my gratitude to the Commonwealth Relations Office, London, for furnishing us with copies of certain letters in their possession with permission to publish them, and to the Government of West Bengal and Madras, the University of Poona, and the Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta, for permission to publish certain portraits and paintings in their collections. I am thankful to the Director-General of Archaeology, Government of India, for his kind co-operation in furnishing us with photographic copies of these portraits and paintings and also for permitting us to make use of certain pictures available in his photo library. I may express my gratefulness to the staff of this Department for helping me in preparing the volume for the press.

*National Archives of India,
New Delhi,
15 December 1954.*

B. A. SALTER:
*Director of Archives,
Government of India.*

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* President during the absence of Gen. Medows on field service.

INTRODUCTION

THE letters that passed between the Fort William Council and the Court of Directors included in this volume are those of the Foreign, Political, and Secret Departments for the years 1792-95. The letters of each of these Departments form a separate series, and they have been grouped separately, the letters within each group being arranged chronologically. To cover the lacunae in our records, copies of certain letters have been obtained by the courtesy of the Commonwealth Relations Office, London, and included in this volume. The following letters are known to have been issued, but they are not traceable among the records either in Delhi or in London:

- (1) Secret Letter from the Court of Directors to the Fort William Council, 14 March 1792.
- (2) " " 25 March 1795.
- (3) " " 8 April 1795.

It has not been considered in any way useful to publish the following letters:

- (1) Secret Letter to the Court of Directors from the Fort William Council forwarding its proceedings, 12 December 1792.
- (2) " " " " 9 June 1794 (two letters bearing the same date).
- (3) Secret Letter from the Court of Directors to the Fort William Council forwarding a copy of a letter addressed to the Government of Bombay, 24 March 1795.

The letters included in this volume relate primarily to the diplomatic and military history of India during the last two years of the Governor-Generalship of Cornwallis and the first two years of that of Shore. The letters in the Foreign Department relate to the Company's dealings with the European nations having settlements in the East. Those in the Political Department concern primarily diplomatic relations with the neighbouring princes of the country; at times, however, they deal with purely internal civil administrative matters such as the organization of the newly conquered region of Malabar. The Secret Department letters treat of all subjects in respect of which secrecy in deliberation and communication was considered necessary; in addition to diplomatic and military matters, they deal with questions of trade and commerce.

Tipu Sultan

The major political event at the time the correspondence begins is the war with Tipu which had broken out in May 1790. General Medows was first in charge of the operations, and he had planned to seize Coimbatore and invade Mysore through the Gazzalhatti Pass, while General Abercromby was to attack Malabar. By July a number of forts stretching from the Coromandel to the Gazzalhatti Pass had been captured, and Medows was in Coimbatore. In the meantime, Tipu suddenly came down the Ghats,

inflicted sharp reverses on the Company's forces, and appeared before Trichinopoly. These reverses led Cornwallis to assume personal command of the operations. He arrived at Madras on 12 December and invaded Mysore *via* Vellore and Ambur. He captured Bangalore, the second important town in Tipu's dominions, and reached Seringapatam on 13 May 1791. He was, however, compelled to retreat to Bangalore on 26 May, owing largely to scarcity of food and fodder and the setting in of the rains. With the postponement of the siege of Seringapatam, General Abercromby, who had succeeded in securing Malabar and Coorg and had been ordered to co-operate in the siege, was directed to withdraw to Malabar; the Maratha army under Parashuram Bhau, accompanied by a detachment of troops from Bombay under Captain Little, proceeded to operate in the north-west of Bangalore, and the Nizam's forces under Asad Ali Khan moved to the north-east.

Before Cornwallis could resume the siege of Seringapatam, he had first to secure uninterrupted communication with the Coromandel Coast by reducing the intermediate posts still held by the enemy. By September 1791 communication with the Baramahal and the Coromandel had been well-established and the only fort that stood out was Krishnagiri, the capital of the Baramahal, about 106 miles east of Seringapatam. On 19 October Nandidurga was captured, and this enabled Cornwallis to have uninterrupted communication with the Nizam's forces in the north-east and to assist in the siege of Gurramkonda. Peace in this region, however, was disturbed in October-November by the incursion of Qamar-ud-din into Coimbatore and of Bakar Sahib into the Baramahal. Cornwallis sent a detachment of his forces against the latter under Col. Maxwell, who captured Penagra on 21 October¹ and induced Bakar Sahib to quit the country. Maxwell also attacked Krishnagiri and captured the lower fort and the *pettah* but failed to carry the upper fort.²

Coimbatore was under siege by Tipu's forces since 13 June, and it was intensified after the arrival of Qamar-ud-din. Lieut. Chalmers, the Commandant of the fort, put up a gallant defence, and ultimately surrendered on 3 November, on condition that the garrison would be allowed to proceed to Palghat. After the surrender was complete, however, the members of the garrison were taken captives and marched to Seringapatam. The Company alleged that this was an infraction of the terms of the capitulation, and, later on, Cornwallis made their release a condition precedent to any negotiation with Tipu. Shortly after the fall of Coimbatore Qamar-ud-din returned to Mysore, and Major Cuppage recovered control over the region.³

As part of his preparation for the siege of Seringapatam, Cornwallis proceeded also with the reduction of the enemy strongholds between Bangalore and that city. On the northern road to Seringapatam, on 21 December 1791, Col. Stuart captured the formidable fortress of Savandurga or the Rock of Death, "which at one time he (the Governor General) had determined not to attack, from the great improbability of success"⁴; and he also captured

¹ *Political Letter to Court*, 25 January 1792, para. 2.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Political Letters to Court*, 25 January 1792, paras. 7-9; and 8 April 1792, para. 5.

⁴ Lt. Col. Mark Wilks, *History of Mysore*, Vol. II, p. 509.

Hutridurga on the same road on 23 December. Capt. Welsh took Ramgiri and Sivangiri on the central road on 27 December.⁵ The only fort that remained in the hands of the enemy was Kabbaldurga on the southern road, but it was left alone as there was no intention to use that road.

The stage was nearly set for the commencement of the siege of Seringapatam. General Abercromby was directed to march along the south bank of the Cauvery towards Tipu's capital; and the Maratha army under Parashuram Bhau, which was operating near Sira in the north-west, was asked to proceed by the direct road to Seringapatam and effect a junction with the forces of Abercromby. The Nizam's forces were also asked to move southwards speedily and join the forces of Col. Floyd proceeding from the Coromandel. Cornwallis himself marched from Savandurga on 25 January 1792 and camped opposite the city on 5 February.

The movement of the different contingents of the allied forces did not proceed exactly according to plan. The progress of the Nizam's forces was partially impeded by the siege of Gurramkonda. The English detachment under Capt. Read had captured the lower fort on 7 September 1791. After leaving Hafiz Farid-ud-din to garrison the lower fort and carry on the siege of the upper fort, the main army, headed by the Nizam's son Sikandar Jah and his chief minister Azim-ul-Umara and accompanied by Sir John Kennaway, the Resident at the Court of the Nizam, proceeded southwards in December to join Cornwallis. Before they had gone a short distance, news was received that Fateh Haidar, Tipu's eldest son, had taken Hafiz Farid-ud-din a prisoner and captured the lower fort. The Nizam's army returned to Gurramkonda and retook the lower fort without difficulty as Fateh Haidar had moved away from that quarter.⁶ Asad Ali Khan was left in command of the lower fort, and the Nizam's forces joined Cornwallis in the neighbourhood of Hutridurga on the very day he began his march on Seringapatam.

The activities of the Maratha army under Parashuram Bhau, however, were most discouraging. When Cornwallis's summons to move towards Tipu's capital were received Parashuram Bhau was occupied in the neighbourhood of Chitradurga, casting covetous eyes on the rich province of Bednore or Nagar. Instead of marching southwards, he proceeded westwards, captured Shimoga in the last week of December, and appeared before Bednore on 28 January 1792. On hearing that Qamar-ud-din had been detailed by Tipu to act against him, he retreated to Shimoga on 10 February, and did not reach Seringapatam till the middle of March, by which time the negotiations for peace were well under way.⁷

General Abercromby set out from Cannanore in December 1791. As there was no hope of the Maratha army joining him, he crossed the Cauvery on 11 February 1792 and joined the allied forces in carrying on the siege.⁸

The siege commenced on 5 February 1792, and Tipu soon found that

⁵ *Political Letter to Court*, 8 April 1792, paras. 3-4.

⁶ *Political Letter to Court*, 25 January 1792, paras. 15-18.

⁷ *Political Letter to Court*, 8 April 1792, paras. 7-9 & 13-14.

⁸ *Ibid.*, paras. 13-14 & 17.

the odds were against him. He was obliged to sign the preliminary articles of peace on 22 February, and the definitive treaty on 18 March. Under its terms he agreed to surrender one half of his dominions and pay an indemnity of three crores and thirty lakhs of *sicca* rupees, half to be paid immediately and the rest in three instalments, the interval between any two instalments not exceeding four months. He also gave two of his sons, Abdul Khaliq aged 10 and Muiz-ud-din aged 8, as hostages for his good faith.⁹ Highly pleased at "the splendid and decisive victory" over Tipu, "the formidable and restless enemy of the British interests in India", the Court of Directors expressed their "unanimous thanks" to Cornwallis. As a substantial testimony of their sentiments, they confirmed the gratuity allotted to the army by him and in addition granted to it six months' *batta*.¹⁰

There are frequent references in these letters to many disputes that arose over the fulfilment of the terms of the treaty, both between the allies and Tipu, and the allies *inter se*. They centre round four main topics: (1) the cession of territories and frontier adjustments; (2) the payment of the war indemnity; (3) the release of the prisoners of war; and (4) the return of the hostages.

Cession of territories and frontier adjustments: One of the subjects frequently referred to in the letters is the dispute between Tipu and the Nizam over Karnul, a border state of strategic importance. Till 1765 when Haidar Ali invaded it, its ruler Ranmust Khan held it as a military fief from the Nizam. As the latter was unable to protect him, he was forced to pay *peshkash* and become a tributary of Mysore.¹¹ During the negotiations preceding the Treaty of Seringapatam, Tipu included Karnul in the schedule of his dominions. The Nizam protested against it but failed to press the matter to a conclusion. So Ranmust Khan continued to pay tribute to Mysore and advised his son and successor to continue the practice.¹² After the conclusion of the treaty, the Nizam revived his claim and, to check Tipu's aggression in the region, had thoughts of exchanging with the Nawab of Karnul those parts of his state which bordered on Tipu's for an equivalent *jagir* elsewhere.¹³ When the old Nawab Ranmust Khan died, the Nizam also tried to interfere with the succession by supporting one claimant against the other, a conduct against which Tipu vigorously protested.¹⁴ The Company was opposed to the Nizam's claims and held that his policy was not in consonance with the spirit of the Treaty of Seringapatam. Reporting on the subject to the Court, the Fort William Council observed that "the Nizam had in fact, perhaps not in form, suffered his title of Lord Paramount of Kernoull to be superceded, and that he must be considered to have given it up when he ceased to protect his feudatory against the usurpations of Hyder Ally, as well as when the rights of Tippoo were asserted previous to the execution of the Treaty of Seringapatam."¹⁵ To force the hands of the Com-

⁹ C. U. Aitchison, *A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads* (1929), Vol. IX, p. 232.

¹⁰ *Political Letter from Court*, 19 September 1792, paras. 1-2.

¹¹ *Political Letter to Court*, 3 September 1792, paras. 10-11.

¹² *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May 1793, paras. 39-40.

¹³ *Political Letter to Court*, 3 September 1792, para. 10.

¹⁴ *Political Letters to Court*, 18 May 1793, paras. 40-41; and 13 August 1793, para. 57.

¹⁵ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May 1793, para. 41.

pany to support him, the Nizam threatened to withhold his concurrence to an agreement which Cornwallis had proposed with a view to clarifying and thereby strengthening the basis of the Triple Alliance against Tipu. But Cornwallis was not moved by this threat. He expressed himself strongly that "the Company was not bound to support him [the Nizam] in his wild views of ambition and in projects which he would not have ventured to have thought of before his head was turned by the successful event of the war"; and the Resident at Hyderabad was instructed to inform the Nizam in the clearest terms that the Company was not bound to come to his help if "his ill-founded claims upon Kurnoul" led to a war with Tipu.¹⁶ This blunt reply forced the Nizam to retract, and he promised the Company to stop all interference with the succession issue.¹⁷ The only result of the Nizam's unwise Karnul policy was that it deepened the ill will subsisting between him and Tipu; and this was in striking contrast to the latter's efforts to woo the Marathas.

Again, the Raja of Travancore objected to Tipu's including the taluks of Parur, Alangad and Kunnatnad in the province of Cochin and transferring them to the Company under the peace treaty. He claimed that these taluks had been given to him by the Raja of Cochin in 1755 and should be regarded as rightly belonging to him. Both Powney, the Resident at Travancore, and the Malabar Commissioners upheld the justice of his contention.¹⁸ Cornwallis at first demanded compensation from Tipu for the loss sustained by the Company by its having to part with the taluks to Travancore.¹⁹ But he later changed his mind and observed that the proprietary right of the Raja of Travancore was "too doubtful to serve as a ground for persisting in the claim upon Tippoo for a compensation for them" and the disputed areas should be left in the possession of the Raja in view of the reasons advanced by the Malabar Commissioners.²⁰ The Company finally abandoned its claim to the territories, and this was confirmed by Article 1 of the Treaty of Perpetual Alliance concluded in 1795 with the Raja.²¹

Next, there was Tipu's claim over the Raja of Coorg relative to the taluks of Ameera, Soolua and Enwara Seemy. There is a reference in the letters to the deputation of Capt. Murray in 1793 by the Malabar Commissioners with full powers to reconcile the claims of the contending parties.²² Later, however, when Capt. Doveton accompanied the hostage princes on their return to their father, he was instructed not to embark on any discussion on the subject with Tipu as the Raja of Coorg did not appear to welcome the Company's intervention.²³ The negotiations dragged on till war broke out again with Tipu, and the question remained unsettled.²⁴

Again, Tipu objected to the Company's occupation of Wynaad in

¹⁶ *Political Letter to Court*, 13 August 1793, paras. 52-55.

¹⁷ *Political Letter to Court*, 28 October 1793, para. 24.

¹⁸ *Report of a Joint Commission on the Province of Malabar, 1792-93*, paras. 157-75.

¹⁹ *Political Letter from Court*, 25 June 1793, para. 37.

²⁰ *Political Letter to Court*, 30 November 1793, para. 8.

²¹ Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. X, p. 228.

²² *Political Letter to Court*, 28 October 1793, paras. 17-19.

²³ *Political Letter to Court*, 15 May 1794, para. 17. *Political Letter from Court*, 3 July 1795, para. 29.

²⁴ Mohibbul Hasan Khan, *History of Tipu Sultan*, pp. 285-87,

Malabar, and after protracted negotiations the claim was admitted by Wellesley in 1798.²⁵

In addition to the above, there are references to a few minor disputes relative to the cession of territories and the demarcation of boundaries under the peace treaty. There was some delay in the surrender of Bellary to the Nizam, giving rise to protests and counter protests.²⁶ Certain other disputes with the Nizam threatened at one time to come in the way of the return of the hostage princes.²⁷ The Company laid claim to certain villages in the taluks of Solagherry and Verapatchy in Madura District, Madras, and they were surrendered by Tipu. Tipu, on his side, laid claim to certain villages in Karur in Coimbatore District that had been forcibly seized by Samy Naig, the Palegar of Ramagiri, and the Fort William Council expressed strongly that whatever the merits of the case might be, conduct such as that alleged against the Palegar should be discouraged.²⁸ Early in 1794 it was reported to the Court that all the disputes between the Company and Tipu were "either finally concluded or the grounds of adjustment so far settled as to prevent the renewal of future altercation."²⁹

Payment of the war indemnity : No major disputes arose between Tipu and the allies in this matter, but it gave rise to certain minor differences. The Company received the first instalment of the indemnity punctually, but the Nizam and the Marathas complained of Tipu's remissness in paying them their shares. The Fort William Council was afraid that Tipu might be trying to create jealousy in their minds by a show of partiality towards the Company in the performance of his pecuniary engagements, and so decided not to accept the second instalment from him until the first had been paid to the allies.³⁰ Tipu on his side complained that the Nizam and the Marathas were delaying the formal acknowledgment of the receipt of the amounts paid by him, and offered to make payments to the allies collectively through the Company. The Fort William Council did not accept the suggestion, but instructed the Residents at Hyderabad and Poona to request those Governments not to delay the issue of receipts.³¹ There is also a reference to the coins paid by Tipu not being of required weight and purity and to the steps taken to protect the Company against losses on this score.³²

Release of the prisoners of war : There are frequent references in the correspondence to the non-release of the British prisoners of war in contravention of the terms of the peace treaty.³³ Tipu, however, gave "the most solemn assurances that there was not a single Englishman confined in his dominions to his knowledge, and that particularly at Seringapatam."³⁴ Probably, as Professor Dodwell has suggested,³⁵ the Englishmen whom Tipu

²⁵ *Political Letter to Court*, 12 May 1795, para. 5. William Logan, *Malabar*, Vol. I, p. 527.

²⁶ *Political Letter to Court*, 3 September 1792, para. 9.

²⁷ *Political Letter to Court*, 17 January 1794, paras. 10-19.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, paras. 2-8.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 9.

³⁰ *Political Letter to Court*, 14 December 1792, para. 108.

³¹ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May 1793, para. 32.

³² *Ibid.*, para. 30.

³³ *Ibid.*, para. 37. Also *Political Letter from Court*, 3 July 1795, para. 17.

³⁴ *Political Letter to Court*, 13 August 1793, para. 74.

³⁵ Dodwell, H. H. (Ed.), *The Cambridge History of India*, Vol. V, p. 289.

had failed to release were those who had submitted themselves to circumcision and accepted Tipu's service, and the Sultan did not regard them as prisoners of war whom he was bound to release under the terms of the treaty.

Return of the hostage princes : The hostage princes, Abdul Khaliq and Muiz-ud-din, were kept in Madras under the charge of Capt. Doveton and treated, as Tipu himself acknowledged, with "great attention and civilities."³⁶ As a token of goodwill, Cornwallis caused their portraits to be drawn and sent them to their father, who observed that "the miniatures were very well finished, and the likeness remarkably strong."³⁷ As the release of his sons was dependent on the prompt fulfilment of the terms of peace, Tipu made the reparation payments punctually. At the last minute, the Nizam put forward a claim to certain villages in Tipu's possession, and it appeared that there might be some delay in the restoration of the princes. Cornwallis, however, was able to persuade the Nizam to waive his objections without any prejudice to his claims, and at the same time to obtain a written declaration from Tipu's *Vakils* that the boundary disputes between the Nizam and their master would be adjusted according to the terms of the peace treaty.³⁸ Capt. Doveton then escorted the princes from Madras and delivered them safely into the hands of their father on 17 March 1794.³⁹

Thus no major conflicts arose between Tipu and the allies over the fulfilment of the terms of the Treaty of Seringapatam, and so long as his sons were retained as hostages by the Company, Tipu was not likely to give occasion for any serious misunderstanding. The situation altered with the return of the princes, and the Company felt that it was left with no other check upon Tipu than what it derived from its own actual strength and alliances.⁴⁰ Although Tipu could not be accused of any major anti-British activity during the whole of this period, the correspondence throughout breathes the suspicious attitude of the Company towards him.⁴¹ It was a fundamental principle of the Company's policy that his dislike of the English had undergone no change by the events of the war and that he was always seeking a favourable opportunity to regain his lost possessions. Notwithstanding the reduction of his power by the late war, he was still considered formidable "from his activity, abilities, resources and experiences"⁴²; and motives of ambition and resentment were expected to urge him to recover the possessions of which he had been deprived and the reputation he had lost. To counteract this danger the Company was greatly anxious to maintain the solidarity among the members of the Triple Alliance against Tipu unimpaired, and this may be considered the sheet anchor of its external policy at the time. But, at the same time, it was anxious not to get involved in the aggressive designs of its allies. In this connection, the treaties that led to the formation of the Triple Alliance had laid down: "If, after the conclusion of the peace with

³⁶ *Political Letter to Court*, 17 May 1793, para. 28.

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ *Political Letters to Court*, 17 January 1794, paras. 10-20; 13 February 1794, para. 3; 10 March 1794, paras. 7-8; and 15 May 1794, para. 17.

³⁹ *Political Letter to Court*, 15 May 1794, para. 16.

⁴⁰ *Secret Letter to Court*, 15 May, 1794, para. 3.

⁴¹ *Secret Letter to Court*, 31 October 1795, para. 34. *Political Letters to Court*, 14 December 1792, para. 108; and 18 May 1793, para. 32.

⁴² *Secret Letter to Court*, 15 May 1794, para. 5.

Tipu, he should molest or attack either of the contracting parties, the others shall join to punish him; the mode and condition of effecting which shall be hereafter settled by the three contracting powers."⁴³ The provision was much too vague and general. Cornwallis desired that its true meaning and content should not be at a future period disputed or misconstrued by any of the parties, and he wanted a fresh agreement to be concluded in clarification and amplification of this engagement. In the draft Treaty of Guarantee drawn up on 5 February 1793⁴⁴ and in the instructions issued to the Residents at Poona and Hyderabad, he made it clear that the alliance should be strictly defensive and come into effect only if Tipu attacked any of the allies without just provocation. If any dispute arose between one of the allies and Tipu, it was to be the duty of the former to communicate the nature of the dispute to its allies to enable them to use their good offices to secure its settlement amicably by negotiation. The obligation to assist each other was to arise only if the allies not parties to the dispute were convinced that their ally in distress had justice on its side and all means of conciliation had been tried and proved fruitless. In the event of hostilities breaking out, the allies were to assist one another with the whole of their forces.⁴⁵

When the subject was first mooted, Malet, the Resident at Poona, was of opinion that the Nizam would be anxious to promote the objects of the draft treaty as it would offer him protection against the overwhelming Maratha power, and the Marathas would be very circumspect for that very reason.⁴⁶ As was anticipated by Malet, the proposal received a mixed reception. The Nizam at first demanded, as a price for his acceptance of the draft treaty, that the Company should support his claims to Karnul. When he found that there was no chance of the Company yielding on the point, he expressed his willingness to subscribe to the treaty unconditionally. As for the Marathas, after protracted negotiations, the Poona Court put forward a counter proposal on 18 September 1793.⁴⁷ Considering the unimportance of the modifications suggested, the Council at Fort William suspected that the main reason for putting forward a new draft instead of taking the Company's proposal as the basis was to avoid an explicit confirmation of the Treaty of Seringapatam which might have affected adversely the Maratha claim to *chauth* on Tipu's dominions. The Council was not prepared to support such a move. Having considered the discussions that had taken place, and the unqualified assent of the Nizam to the Company's draft, it was of opinion that the meaning of Articles 13 and 10 of the Treaties of Poona and Pangal respectively, which the new agreement proposed to explain, had been sufficiently clearly ascertained and established, and that there were "no cogent reasons for the conclusion of a new explanatory treaty."⁴⁸ The Court of Directors approved the stand taken by the Fort William Council.⁴⁹ The

⁴³ Article 13 of the Treaty of Poona, 1790—Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. VII, p. 49.
Article 10 of the Treaty of Pangal, 1790—Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. IX, p. 46.

⁴⁴ For the text of the draft Treaty of Guarantee, see Appendix 1.

⁴⁵ *Political Letters to Court*, 3 September 1792, para. 16; and 14 December 1792, para. 82.

⁴⁶ *Political Letter to Court*, 14 December 1792, paras. 84-85.

⁴⁷ For the text of the proposal, see Appendix 2.

⁴⁸ *Political Letter to Court*, 17 January 1794, paras. 27-35.

⁴⁹ *Political Letter from Court*, 5 June 1795, para. 23.

subject was allowed to remain dormant for some time and ultimately dropped.⁵⁰

The Marathas

The Maratha Confederacy towards the end of the eighteenth century was a curious and baffling political puzzle. It consisted of the *Chhatrapati* at Satara, who was a descendant of Shivaji and the nominal head of the Maratha State; the Peshwa, whose authority was completely overshadowed by the personality of Nana Phadnis; and the all but independent hereditary generals of the state—Sindia, Holkar, Bhosle and others, who ruled over large territories. During the troubles that followed the death of Peshwa Madhav Rao I in 1772 and the minority of his successor, Madhav Rao Narayan, Nana Phadnis had become the *de facto* ruler of the central government and Mahadji Sindia, who was at the beginning of his career merely one of the hereditary generals of the empire, had become the most powerful ruler in the north, having greatly extended the limits of the Maratha Empire and brought the Mughal Emperor under his protection. The correspondence throws much light on the duel that followed between the great minister and the great general for supreme power in the direction of Maratha affairs.

Shortly after the conclusion of the Treaty of Seringapatam Mahadji Sindia announced his intention to visit Poona. The ostensible object of his visit was to pay homage to the young Peshwa and to present to him, with particular form and ceremony, the *firman*, the *khilat*, and the insignia of the office of *Vakil-i-mullaq* granted by the Mughal Emperor. But speculation was rife as to the real object of his visit, and the correspondence reveals the high feeling of tension prevailing at the time; even Nana Phadnis was induced to sound Cornwallis as to his willingness to mediate between Mahadji and himself, and, in case of necessity, to spare him four or five battalions of the Company's troops.⁵¹ Mahadji moved warily to disarm suspicion, and after long delays reached Poona on 12 June 1792, and remained there till his death on 12 February 1794.

The correspondence does not throw much light on what passed behind the scenes at the Poona Court, but it is clear that Mahadji was making himself felt and Nana was not having his way in many matters. Two episodes make this very clear. Taking advantage of certain domestic disputes in the family of the *Pant Sachiv*, Nana had obtained control of the *Pant Sachiv's* affairs and posted an agent of his own to manage them. Mahadji espoused the cause of the *Sachiv*, and compelled Nana to restore to him his power and possessions. In return for this help, the Fort William Council reported to the Court that Mahadji would be permitted to manage the *jagir* under the title of *diwan*.⁵²

Next, there was a dispute in the Gaikwad family regarding the regency. Sayaji Rao, the ruling Gaikwad, was an imbecile, and his brother Fateh Singh

⁵⁰ Mohibbul Hasan Khan, *op. cit.*, p. 285.

⁵¹ *Political Letter to Court*, 3 September 1792, para. 22. Also, Grant Duff, *History of the Marathas*, Vol. II, p. 219.

⁵² *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May 1793, para. 84.

was acting as the regent. On his death in 1789, a dispute arose between the Gaikwad's other two brothers, Govind Rao and Manaji, as to who should succeed to the regency. The latter, though he was the younger of the two, seized the person and government of Sayaji and gained the support of the Poona Court by paying a large sum of money as *nazar* and promising to clear off the arrears of revenue accumulated by Fateh Singh. Mahadji, when he came to Poona, pressed the claims of Govind Rao on the attention of the Peshwa and secured his appointment as regent in the place of Manaji. Reporting on the subject in January 1793, Malet, the Resident at Poona, observed that if this move succeeded it would have the effect of throwing "that great branch of the empire into the already too weighty scale of Mahadji Sindhia's influence."⁵³ To counter Mahadji's move, Manaji applied to the Company for aid under the treaty concluded by his brother Fateh Singh with General Goddard in 1780, but the Bombay Government declined to intervene on the ground that it had been superseded by the Treaty of Salbai of 1782.⁵⁴ The conflict came to an end with the opportune death of Manaji in August 1793. Though there was now no one left to dispute the claims of Govind Rao, his troubles were not at an end. The Poona Court demanded from him, prior to giving its consent to his proceeding to Baroda, a cash payment of a crore of rupees, the *chauth* of Surat, and the surrender of the district of Surat Athavisi.⁵⁵ The last two demands were likely to affect the interests of the Company adversely. Govind Rao sought the Company's aid to help him out of his difficulties. Shore had just assumed office. In his letter to the Resident at Poona on 1 November 1793, he observed that the Company was under no obligation under Article 8 of the Treaty of Salbai to help Govind Rao, because he had carried on negotiations with the Poona Government before and after the death of Manaji and entered into various commitments without taking the Company into his confidence. Shore also considered it impolitic to take any step which might lead to serious misunderstanding with the Poona Court and weaken the solidarity of the Triple Alliance against Tipu. He felt, however, that the affair should not be passed over in silence; a mild protest was to be sent to Nana Phadnis against the conclusion of the affair without any communication to the Company, but the protest was not to be "pushed so far as to convey against him the imputation of the violation of the treaty."⁵⁶ Before the receipt of the letter, however, Malet had made representations to the Poona Court on similar lines,⁵⁷ and the presence of Mahadji must have been of no small help to Govind Rao's cause. The finale of the episode was that the Poona Court gave up its territorial demands and permitted Govind Rao to proceed to Baroda in December 1793.⁵⁸

While Mahadji was at Poona, the Sindia-Holkar rivalry, fanned by the intrigues of the Poona Court, became more acute. Ahalya Bai generally

⁵³ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May 1793, para. 82.

⁵⁴ *Political Letter to Court*, 13 August 1793, para. 39. Also, Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. VI, p. 286.

⁵⁵ J. H. Gense and D. R. Banaji (Eds.), *The Gaikwads of Baroda: English Documents*, Vol. III, p. xv.

⁵⁶ *Political Letter to Court*, 5 November 1793, para. 2.

⁵⁷ Gense and Banaji, *op. cit.*, Vol. III, pp. 184-85.

⁵⁸ *Political Letter to Court*, 17 January 1794, para. 36.

favoured peaceful relations with her neighbour, but she could not sufficiently control the impetuous spirits in her camp. There was a skirmish between the forces of Sindia and Holkar at Suravli in October 1792, and it was followed by the decisive battle of Lakheri in June 1793, which raised Mahadji to the zenith of his greatness.⁵⁹ But, the end came soon. Mahadji, who was ailing for some time, died suddenly on 12 February 1794. He was succeeded by Daulat Rao, a lad of fourteen. The confusion that reigned in the north with the removal of the strong hand of Mahadji, and the general unsettled condition of the country, are clearly portrayed in an account given by Major Palmer, the Resident at Sindia's court.⁶⁰

Mahadji's death left Nana the undisputed master of the Maratha nation. Peace at home helped him to direct his attention against the traditional enemy of the Marathas—the Nizam, and his victory over the latter in the battle of Kharda in March 1795 placed him at the height of his power. A few months later, however, came an event which threw the affairs of the Maratha nation into utter confusion—the death of the young Peshwa Madhav Rao Narayan on 27 October 1795. The Fort William Council rightly anticipated “a possible reduction of the power and influence of the Poona Minister [Nana Phadnis] or a disunion among the different branches of the Maratha State which may eventually arise from a disputed succession.”⁶¹

The last entry in the correspondence refers to a move by Nana to by-pass the claims of Baji Rao and Chimnaji Appa to the Peshwaship by inducing the widow of the late Peshwa to adopt a boy: the boy would succeed to the rights of his posthumously adoptive father, and Nana would be able to retain all power in his own hands during the minority.⁶² This attempt, as is well-known, did not succeed, and Baji Rao at last became the Peshwa.

The Company's policy towards the Marathas was conditioned by its fear of Tipu and the great importance attached by it to the Triple Alliance as a bulwark against the revival of the aggressive ambitions of that ruler. It desired to be on the best of terms with the Poona Government, and studiously avoided being involved in the rivalries and wrangles of the Maratha chiefs, although many opportunities presented themselves. It has been seen above how the Company was averse to any active interference in the Gaikwad affair. Again, in 1793, when Tukoji Holkar applied to Cornwallis to mediate between Mahadji Sindia and himself the request was turned down; and the Resident at Poona was instructed to assure Nana that no consideration would induce the Company “to interfere in accommodating the dissensions between the chiefs who formed the Maratha State, unless they were solicited to do so by the Peshwa or his Ministers.”⁶³ Even when Nana himself sought the mediation of Cornwallis in his dispute with Mahadji, he was told that the Company did not like to “interfere in the disputes of a superior and dependant.”⁶⁴ As will be noticed later, the Company also kept out of the diplomatic duel between

⁵⁹ G. S. Sardesai, *New History of the Marathas*, Vol. III, pp. 243-44.

⁶⁰ *Political Letter to Court*, 12 May 1795, paras. 28-33.

⁶¹ *Political Letter to Court*, 20 November 1795, para. 10.

⁶² *Political Letter to Court*, 15 December 1795, para. 2.

⁶³ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May 1793, para. 86.

⁶⁴ *Political Letter to Court*, 3 September 1792, para. 22. Also, Grant Duff, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 219.

the Nizam and the Marathas which ultimately led to the battle of Kharda, and refused to offer mediation unless requested by both the parties.

There were, however, certain unresolved disputed claims of the Marathas, which, pressed to a point, might have led to an armed conflict; the fear of each other's military might alone acted as the restraining force. There was first the Maratha claim to *chauth*. Writing on this subject to Malet on 27 October 1792, Cornwallis expressed himself strongly in the following terms: "With regard to the presumptuous Maratha claim of *chout*, I wish that, as far as it relates to ourselves, it should not only be treated with contempt, but that the Marathas should also know that it can never be mentioned by them without exciting our displeasure and indignation, and it may likewise be proper that they should clearly understand that we do not look upon ourselves as, in the most distant degree, engaged to support them in such a claim upon any of the other powers in India."⁸⁵

There were next certain claims which the Marathas could put forward on behalf of the Mughal Emperor, who had conferred on the Peshwa the august title of *Vakil-i-mutlaq*, or Absolute Vicegerent. Alluding to a report that the Emperor had directed the Peshwa and Mahadji Sindia to collect the tribute due from Bengal, Cornwallis made it clear to the latter that any such claim would be warmly resented by the Company.⁸⁶ The Company did not support such claims with respect to the Indian powers also, as seen in the affair of the investiture of the Nawab of Surat. Nizam-ud-din Khan, who had succeeded as the Nawab in 1790, applied to the Emperor for a *sanad* of investiture. Mahadji wanted to extract as much as possible by way of *nazr*, and greatly delayed the issue of the *sanad*. Exasperated by this delay, Nizam-ud-din had himself installed in 1792 as the Nawab with the assent of the Company; and when the imperial *sanad* was at length despatched, he declined to receive it, deeming the Company's recognition an adequate security to his position. The Court of Directors hoped that this event, together with Cornwallis's action in not soliciting a *sanad* of investiture when Nasir-ul-Mulk succeeded as the Nawab of Bengal, would convince the Marathas how little weight would be attached in future to any pretensions founded on the office of *Vakil-i-mutlaq*.⁸⁷

Apart from these questions of great moment discussed above, there are innumerable references in the correspondence to matters of a routine type that generally arise between neighbouring friendly states. A writ of summons issued by the Mayor's Court of Bombay against two subjects of the Maratha State appeared in Poona and caused some diplomatic unpleasantness.⁸⁸ The Poona Government sought a suspension of the duty levied on grain imported through Bombay, as their country was suffering from a drought; the Fort William Council desired to oblige, but did not succeed owing to the opposition of the Bombay Government.⁸⁹ The Peshwa requested the Company's Government to remit the sentence of death passed on a Brahmin at Bombay. Out of deference to his wishes, the Bombay Government suspended the

⁸⁵ *Political Letter to Court*, 14 December 1792, para. 112.

⁸⁶ *Political Letter to Court*, 3 September 1792, para. 26.

⁸⁷ *Political Letters from Court*, 25 April 1792, para. 13; and 5 June 1795, para. 20.

⁸⁸ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May 1793, paras. 67-75.

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, paras. 76-80.

execution of the sentence, and applied to the Crown for the remission, as the subject was within the royal prerogative.⁷⁰ As a token of goodwill, the Peshwa was presented with a model of a first rate ship of war.⁷¹

Complaints were received from Benares that Sindia's *Vakils* were behaving with indecency and insolence in the prosecution of a suit at the Court of *Adalat*. A number of other Marathas going there were also found frequently guilty of many improprieties. Cornwallis found it necessary to warn Sindia that while his subjects visiting the Company's territories, either on business or for religious purposes, would meet with the most friendly treatment so long as they conducted themselves quietly, they would in future be severely punished if they offered resistance to the established laws and insulted the officers of the Company.⁷² A complaint was also received against Lallaboy, Sindia's *Amil* at Broach. One of the Company's sepoys was murdered following a brawl with a soldier in Sindia's service, and the efforts of the Company's Resident to secure justice locally met only with insults. The matter was then taken up with Mahadji himself, and he met the demand for firm action in a conciliatory spirit.⁷³ There is also a reference in the correspondence to one Perrot, formerly of the Company's service, who complained to the Court that certain inhabitants of Broach and its neighbourhood owed him large sums of money and he was finding it difficult to collect them. The Court directed the Fort William Council to urge Sindia to have the debts paid.⁷⁴

The letters also contain many references to Raghuji Bhosle, the Nagpur Raja, with whose territories the Company had a long common frontier. They relate to border frays, discontented zamindars of one state taking refuge in the other state, and such other matters.⁷⁵

The Nizam

Hyderabad was still ruled by Nizam Ali, and his chief adviser was Azim-ul-Umara, also known as Mushir-ul-Mulk. The letters throw great light on the personality of the latter, who was all powerful in the affairs of the state till the battle of Kharda in March 1795. The Fort William Council had no high opinion of either his abilities or his character. There are frequent references to "the natural levity and inconsiderateness of his character",⁷⁶ and he was regarded as "a man of limited knowledge and experience in military matters".⁷⁷ Although he was staunchly pro-British, the Company did not view with favour his policy towards the Marathas. He was said to entertain the most extravagant ideas of the power of his master and to be pursuing "wild and unconnected schemes of policy", which were certain to bring ruin at their heels.⁷⁸

⁷⁰ *Political Letter to Court*, 17 January 1794, paras. 37-38.

⁷¹ *Political Letter to Court*, 30 November 1793, para. 3.

⁷² *Political Letter to Court*, 3 September 1792, para. 38.

⁷³ *Ibid.*, paras. 36-37. Also *Political Letter to Court*, 14 December 1792, paras. 76-77.

⁷⁴ *Secret Letter from Court*, 25 June 1793, para. 53.

⁷⁵ *Political Letters to Court*, 3 September 1792, para. 42; and 14 December 1792, paras. 141-43.

⁷⁶ *Political Letter to Court*, 14 December 1792, para. 89.

⁷⁷ *Political Letter to Court*, 8 April 1792, para. 15.

⁷⁸ *Political Letter to Court*, 30 December 1794, para. 84.

It has been noticed already that the policy pursued over the Karmud question and other matters relating to the Treaty of Seringapatam deepened the ill will subsisting between Tipu and the Nizam.⁷⁹ The Fort William Council, writing to the Court on 30 December 1794, remarked that Tipu was even averse to having direct correspondence with the Nizam, and preferred communicating with him through the circuitous channel of the Company.⁸⁰

The Nizam's Maratha policy was equally unfortunate and far more disastrous in its consequences. He supported Mahadji Sindia as against Nana Phadnis in the struggle between them for supremacy. He advanced Mahadji thirty lakhs of rupees, and was willing to pay more.⁸¹ At one time he posed as a peace maker and offered to go to Poona with the ostensible object of attending the Peshwa's wedding, but he received no encouragement.⁸² He proceeded then to Bidar, which was close to the Maratha frontier on the Poona side; and this was interpreted to mean that he wanted to be nearer the scene of action to enable him to interfere more effectively in Maratha politics.⁸³ These political manoeuvres of the Nizam only antagonised the Poona *Darbar* without gaining for him the support of Mahadji, who was playing his own subtle game. The Nizam, however, had little to fear from the Marathas so long as the Nana-Mahadji conflict continued. Things took an unexpected turn by the sudden demise of Mahadji in February 1794. Now the Nizam had to bear the full brunt of the wrath of Nana, whose power had been unexpectedly augmented by this event. The Marathas demanded the payment of *chanth* and *sardeshmukhi*, which had fallen in arrears for many years,⁸⁴ and the acceptance of the demand would have driven the Nizam back to their tutelage, a condition from which he had only recently emerged. The Nizam sent Mir Alam to Poona to negotiate an agreement in July 1794. The tortuous discussions that followed bore no fruit, and he recalled him in December.⁸⁵ After this, the Nizam's relations with the Marathas deteriorated rapidly, and hostilities broke out shortly after.

With Shore as the Governor General, the policy of the Company towards the gathering storm was vacillating and lacking in vigour. The Company was deeply interested in the matter for two reasons. First, an open conflict between the Nizam and the Peshwa would inevitably weaken the Triple Alliance, the continued existence of which was considered necessary to hold in check any attempt on the part of Tipu to recover his lost possessions and power.⁸⁶ Secondly, Hyderabad was a valuable buffer. The Fort William Council wrote to the Resident at Hyderabad, "The annihilation of the independence of the Nizam, whether by the power of the Peshwa or Tippoo Sultan, cannot be effected without danger to the Company's possessions in India; and it is therefore our interest to afford him support."⁸⁷ But, after mature consideration, the Council decided against risking a war with the Marathas in support

⁷⁹ See pp. 4-7 above.

⁸⁰ *Political Letter to Court*, 30 December 1794, para. 77.

⁸¹ *Political Letter to Court*, 13 August 1793, para. 45.

⁸² *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May 1793, para. 55.

⁸³ *Ibid.*, para. 48.

⁸⁴ Capt. H. Fraser, *Our Faithful Ally, the Nizam*. Appendix J.

⁸⁵ V. G. Dighe (Ed.), *Maratha-Nizam Relations*, Poona Residency Correspondence, Vol. IV, pp. 108 & 196.

⁸⁶ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 August 1794, para. 25.

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 26.

of the Nizam. In justification of this decision, it wrote to the Court, "Considering the consequences of it in a pecuniary as well as political view, we might affirm that it would be wiser to incur the additional expense of augmenting our army to such an extent and in such a mode as would preclude the danger of insult or molestation from any or all the powers of Hindostan than involve ourselves in the hazards, difficulty and expense of a war with the Mahrattas for the support of a Government over which we could never exercise an effective control and which, from the vices inherent in it, require abilities of the first magnitude to correct, [and which] must gradually decline into dependence or inexistence."⁸⁸ The Fort William Council did not also feel bound by any treaty to defend the Nizam against the Peshwa; and to engage in a war on his account in the absence of such a treaty would have involved "a direct violation of the prescriptions of the Legislature",⁸⁹ viz., the directions given by Parliament against the Company engaging in an aggressive war.⁹⁰

Although the Company was decidedly against espousing the cause of the Nizam to the extent of risking a war with the Marathas, it was anxious to prevent a rupture between them, and counselled moderation through the usual diplomatic channels. No formal offer of mediation was made at any stage, because it was considered impolitic to do so except at the express request of both the parties; it was felt that while the Nizam would welcome such a move, the Marathas would be opposed to it, because they regarded the Nizam as a *mamlcdar* or dependent of theirs.⁹¹ Mediation was also difficult for another reason. The Company was kept, surprisingly enough, ignorant of the true causes of the disagreement to the very end.⁹² The Nizam appears to have hesitated to take the Company into his confidence, because many of the Maratha claims had a reference to the Treaty of Edgheer of 1784 and the provisions of that treaty would have exposed his anti-British activities during that period.

As the crisis deepened, various reports of anti-British alliances were received. It was reported that Tipu was negotiating with the Marathas for a free hand against the Company if they declared war on the Nizam. The Fort William Council attached no importance to the report, because it believed that the Marathas would be afraid to enter into any such commitment with Tipu with their northern territories so vulnerable to attacks from Bengal. It also felt that Tipu himself would hesitate to make such a proposal, because, in all probability, the most arduous task of the war, that of fighting the British, would fall on him, while the Marathas, in view of the Nizam's known weakness, would have the easiest and most advantageous part to pursue.⁹³

Again, on the authority of the information received from Mir Alam, it was reported that Azim-ul-Umara was planning a Poona-Hyderabad-Mysore combination for the destruction of British power in India. The Fort William Council regarded it only as a clever move on the part of Azim to

⁸⁸ *Political Letter to Court*, 30 December 1794, para. 74.

⁸⁹ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 August 1794, para. 26.

⁹⁰ 33 Geo. 3, C. 52, S. 42.

⁹¹ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 August 1794, para. 26. Dighe, *op. cit.*, p. xiii.

⁹² *Political Letter to Court*, 30 December 1794, para. 69.

⁹³ *Ibid.*, para. 78.

force the Company to abandon its "system of neutrality and moderation" and ally itself with the Nizam against the Peshwa. It also felt that Tipu and the Marathas would view it as a ruse on the part of the Nizam to save himself from their designs.⁸⁴ The policy of neutrality adopted by the Company after serious deliberation remained unaffected by the surcharged political atmosphere of the time.

After the recall of Mir Alam from Poona in December 1794 as noticed above, preparation for war went ahead rapidly, and the armies of both powers marched towards their respective frontiers. On 14 February 1795, with the arrival of the Nizam at Purgong, the opposing forces were encamped within 14 *coss* of each other. Last minute efforts to bring about a compromise failed, and the battle of Kharda was fought on 11 March 1795. It was not so much an action as a skirmish between some of the corps of the two armies: it was computed that no more than 150 were killed on both the sides. But the Nizam was seized by panic, and he sought refuge with his army in the small fort of Kharda. The fort had not been provisioned to meet such a situation and the distress of the army was extreme. A retreat by reascending the *Ghats* was impracticable with a dispirited army. Under these circumstances, the Nizam was forced to open negotiations for peace.⁸⁵ As a preliminary condition to holding peace talks, the Marathas insisted on the surrender of the person of Azim-ul-Umara, whom they regarded as their arch-enemy. This was a bitter pill for the Nizam to swallow; but the difficulty was got over by the unfortunate Minister voluntarily surrendering himself to the Peshwa; the Fort William Council surmised that Azim preferred captivity in a Maratha fort to facing the resentment he was bound to evoke in Hyderabad, especially among his enemies, if he returned after concluding a disgraceful peace.⁸⁶ According to the terms of the treaty that was finally concluded on 10 April 1795, the Nizam agreed to pay 3 crores and 10 lakhs of rupees, one crore towards the arrears of *chauth*, one crore as reparations, and the rest towards *Darbar* charges, etc.⁸⁷ He also agreed to cede territories worth Rs. 34½ crores, and the cessions extended along the Maratha frontier from the fort of Parinda in the south to the river Tapti in the north, including the fort of Daulatabad.⁸⁸ Many of the ceded territories were so blended in situation with those of the Nizam that they were likely to give a hand to the Marathas to create trouble whenever they wanted, and for this reason it was reported that the Nizam was endeavouring to get them exchanged.⁸⁹

The victory was spectacular. In its appreciation of the event, the Fort William Council wrote to the Court, "Exclusively of an accession of wealth, territory and reputation, the Marrattas have now established an influence and control over the Nizam from which he will never be able to emancipate himself."⁹⁰ It did not, however, anticipate any danger to the Company by this accession of power to the Marathas; it expected that although Maratha ambition was "ever vigilant and prospective", their armies would have ample

⁸⁴ *Political Letter to Court*, 30 December 1794, paras. 79-83.

⁸⁵ *Political Letter to Court*, 12 May 1795, paras. 16-18.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 18.

⁸⁷ Dighe, *op. cit.*, p. 307.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*; and Grant Duff, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 248.

⁸⁹ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 August 1795, para. 13.

⁹⁰ *Political Letter to Court*, 12 May 1795, para. 22.

occupation in subjugating the numerous petty states in the North.¹⁰¹ It also considered that the Triple Alliance against Tipu remained unaffected, because the treaties that led to the formation of the Alliance as well as the Treaty of Seringapatam were specifically confirmed by the present treaty.¹⁰²

Following the conclusion of peace with the Marathas and presumably under their influence, the Nizam requested the Company to withdraw its two battalions stationed with him, stating by way of explanation that the measure was necessitated by considerations of economy.¹⁰³ This was shortly followed by his decision to send the French troops under Raymond to Cuddapah to quell, as was stated, certain disturbances there.¹⁰⁴ The Company was nervous of this move as the district adjoined its own territories, the Northern Circars. There was also at this time evidence of the growing influence of the French in the Nizam's Court, and it was rumoured that "Monsieur Raymond and his officers were particularly solicitous to obtain an establishment in Kurpah", and also that they had strongly imbibed "the principles of their countrymen in Europe."¹⁰⁵ The apprehensions of the Company were further increased by the discovery that certain French officers—prisoners of war on parole at Pondicherry—had attempted to join Raymond's band.¹⁰⁶ So the Company strongly urged the Nizam to recall the French detachment from Cuddapah, and the Nizam was willing, provided the Company would send some of its own troops to help him to quell the disturbances.

While these negotiations were proceeding, the Nizam's eldest son Prince Ali Jah rose in revolt on 28 June 1795. The Nizam requested the Company to send him two battalions in accordance with Article 6 of the treaty of 1768. Thereupon, the Fort William Council directed the Government of Madras to order "the immediate march of the detachment stipulated by treaty towards Hyderabad and to afford, if practicable, assistance to the Nizam's authority in Kurpah from the adjacent station of Indigherry, on application from His Highness's principal officer in the district."¹⁰⁷ Hobart, the Governor of Madras, objected to the directive in view of the depleted state of the Company's forces in the Presidency, and the fact that the forces were often employed by the Nizam on "disgraceful services" such as quelling insurrections. Thereupon the Fort William Council explained at length the reasons which had influenced its decision. If the disturbances of Cuddapah, it observed, were not put down in time, there was the danger of their spreading all over the kingdom and undermining the strength and authority of its ally. The Company's interest was bound up with the preservation of the Nizam's power and it was essential to protect it in the Company's own interest. As the Nizam's prestige, following his defeat in the battle of Kharda, was at a very low ebb, and he was beset by dangers and difficulties on all sides, any help rendered to him at this time was likely to be specially appreciated. These larger considerations apart, the Company would also gain its immediate

¹⁰¹ *Political Letter to Court*, 12 May 1795, para. 25.

¹⁰² *Political Letter to Court*, 18 August 1795, para. 14.

¹⁰³ *Political Letter to Court*, 2 May 1795, para. 22.

¹⁰⁴ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 August 1795, para. 17. Also, Fraser, *op. cit.*, Chap. XII.

¹⁰⁵ *Political Letter to Court*, 2 May 1795, para. 18.

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 7.

¹⁰⁷ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 August 1795, para. 25.

objective of securing the withdrawal of Raymond's corps from its frontiers. While advancing the above arguments in favour of its earlier orders, the Fort William Council felt the compelling force of the objection now raised by Hobart—that the state of the Company's forces in the Presidency would not permit the detachment of any troops towards Cuddapah in addition to the two battalions that were in any case to be sent under the terms of the treaty of 1768. Since it considered the security of the Company's possessions to be paramount, it refrained from issuing any firm orders, but left the matter to the discretion of Hobart himself.¹⁰⁸ Hobart held firm to his views, and the only help sent to the Nizam was the dispatch of two battalions under Major Roberts in August 1795 with instructions not to participate in any fighting with the Marathas in the improbable contingency of their espousing the Prince's cause.¹⁰⁹

The attitude of the other powers towards the Nizam during this period of civic disorder was not unfavourable. Although there were rumours of their intervention in favour of the Prince, the Marathas showed no signs of desiring to take advantage of the Nizam's troubles. But the Nizam felt nervous by the near approach of the period when he was to pay the Marathas a crore and a half of rupees under the terms of the treaty concluded at Kharda, and he was anxious not to give them an excuse to interfere in his affairs. He appealed to the Company for a loan, but it did not find it possible to accede to his request.¹¹⁰ Even Tipu's attitude towards the Nizam softened, and he sent a *Vakil*, Sakham Pandit, to cultivate by epistolary intercourse the friendship subsisting between his state and that of His Highness the Nizam." This was viewed by the Company as a move to weaken the bonds of the Triple Alliance which imposed a barrier to Tipu's ambitions.¹¹¹

The Nizam's troubles were soon at an end. Raymond succeeded in forcing Prince Ali Jah to surrender. Shortly after, as he was being taken a prisoner to Hyderabad, the Prince died; and it was widely believed that he committed suicide to avoid disgrace.¹¹²

The Nawab Vazir of Oudh

The letters are replete with references to the maladministration of Oudh. There was mismanagement in every department of the state and the finances were at a low ebb. Although the Vazir Asaf-ud-daulah gave the Company a loan of twelve lakhs of rupees in 1791 and earned the encomium of the Court, he was generally in arrears in the payment of his tribute to the Company, and his debts were mounting.

It was not easy for the Company to decide on the course of policy to be pursued with respect to the internal administration of Oudh. The Company had no right to interfere under the existing engagements, but it felt impelled

¹⁰⁸ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 August 1795, paras. 17-34.

¹⁰⁹ *Political Letter to Court*, 31 October 1795, para. 15.

¹¹⁰ *Political Letters to Court*, 18 August 1795, para. 36; and 31 October 1795, paras. 15-18.

¹¹¹ *Political Letter to Court*, 31 October 1795, paras. 22-28. Also, Fraser, *op. cit.*, pp. 179-80.

¹¹² Fraser, *op. cit.*, p. 185.

to do so by a keen sense of moral responsibility, because the Vazir's dependence on it was universally known. This accounts for the vacillation in its attitude noticeable in the correspondence. On 1 May 1794 Shore cautioned the Resident at Lucknow that the terms of the Company's connection with the Vazir precluded a direct interference in the internal arrangement of his administration.¹¹³ But, a year later, with reference to the Resident's assurance to the Vazir that "unless asked it was the Governor General's firm resolve not to intrude his recommendation upon him", the Fort William Council observed, "We considered this declaration not only unguarded, but inconsistent with the strong recommendations already pressed upon the Vizier by Marquis of Cornwallis, and enforced by the Governor General. We were also of opinion that if the Vizier should think proper to take advantage of it, a circumstance to be apprehended from his habits and disposition, it would add to the embarrassments attending any future remonstrance we might be compelled to make on the subject of reform in his administration."¹¹⁴

There are innumerable references to the advice, admonitions and warnings given by the Company to the Vazir in respect of various questions, and the rapid progress which Oudh was making towards becoming a dependency is clearly seen. When Haidar Beg Khan died in 1792, the Vazir was prevailed upon by the Resident to confirm the appointment of Hasan Raza Khan and Raja Tikait Rai as Ministers only after Cornwallis's opinion was ascertained.¹¹⁵ In 1793 the Vazir stressed the need for personal consultations with the Governor General, and wanted to proceed personally to Calcutta. Dissuaded from doing so, he deputed his Ministers.¹¹⁶ Prior to his leaving India, in a personal letter, Cornwallis recommended to the Vazir in the most urgent terms the necessity of reforming the administration of his finances and of retrenching his personal expenses.¹¹⁷ Shore continued these exhortations. In March 1795 the Resident in Oudh reported that the Vazir had given him a spontaneous assurance that he would apply himself to the adjustment of the affairs of his Government, discharge the heavy debts which had accumulated and secure the regular payment of the subsidy to the Company;¹¹⁸ he had also made a modest beginning by ordering a reduction in his troops. On the Resident's advice the work of assessing the true and just debts of the Vazir was taken up; and also at the Vazir's own request the Resident was permitted to assist him in the matter, "taking precautions . . . to prevent any implication of the Company's responsibility in consequence of such interference."¹¹⁹ Commenting on the subject of reform in their letter of 3 July 1795 to the Vazir, the Court of Directors observed, "We are anxious to hear that Your Excellency has concluded the necessary arrangements for the internal administration of your country, and the management of your finances, which have been so wisely suggested from a due regard to your interest, both by the Marquis of Cornwallis and Sir John Shore." If this was done, the Directors assured him that he could "recline with security in the shade of the Company's protection."¹²⁰

¹¹³ *Political Letter to Court*, 15 May 1794, para. 28.

¹¹⁴ *Political Letter to Court*, 12 May 1795, para. 38.

¹¹⁵ *Political Letter to Court*, 3 September 1792, para. 43.

¹¹⁶ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May 1793, para. 87.

¹¹⁷ *Political Letter to Court*, 5 November 1793, para. 27.

¹¹⁸ *Political Letter to Court*, 12 May 1795, paras. 36-37.

¹¹⁹ *Political Letter to Court*, 31 October 1795, para. 41.

¹²⁰ *Political Letter from Court*, 3 July 1795, enclosure.

To all this advice and exhortation, the Vazir readily replied with promises of compliance. On one occasion, the Vazir gave directions to Raja Tikait Rai before the Resident "to consult Mr. Cherry [the Resident] on the state of affairs, by no means whatever to keep any matter secret from him, and to pay attention to what he might recommend."¹²¹ But the Company placed little reliance on these promises, and the sorry state of affairs continued. In the last reference to the subject in the correspondence, the Fort William Council observed that many difficulties must impede the progress of reform in Oudh and these could be surmounted only by steady perseverance, but the past conduct and habits of the Vazir afforded too little reason to expect this from him.¹²²

There was also an increasing tendency on the part of the Vazir's subjects to look up to the Company for aid and support against the oppressions of their ruler. Although Cornwallis had promised in 1787 not to entertain any petition against the Vazir from his subjects,¹²³ there are a few references to the Company's intervention in such matters. A son of Hafiz Rahmat Khan, the late Rohilla chief, complained of the many indignities he had suffered at the hands of the Vazir's men. A sister of Faizullah Khan of Rampur wrote to the Governor General that some of the villages in her *jagir* had been attacked by the Vazir's officers.¹²⁴ The family of Haidar Beg Khan, the late Minister of Asaf-ud-daulah, complained of the unjust claims made on their inheritance by the Vazir, which were given up only when the Resident pointed out that so ungenerous a return for the fidelity of the late Minister would have an adverse effect on the conduct of others.¹²⁵

The one great event in the otherwise placid history of Oudh during the period was the Rampur or Rohilla Rebellion of 1794. The subject is dealt with at great length in the correspondence, and it brings into relief the fact that the Vazir's independence was becoming more and more nominal. The history of the event is briefly as follows.

On 17 July 1794¹²⁶ the Jagirdar of Rampur, Faizullah Khan, died and was succeeded by his eldest son Muhammad Ali Khan. The Vazir was desirous of obtaining as much benefit out of the event as possible. He claimed that Faizullah had held his lands only as a *jagir*, which by established usage in its most extended sense, lasted only during the lifetime of a jagirdar, and he had now the right to resume it. Without entering into the legal merits of the question, the Company took the view that policy and justice required the continuance of the *jagir* in the family of Faizullah and the Vazir should claim only a moderate *nazarana* and a reasonable annual tribute, which were to be determined with due regard to the increased prosperity of the lands under the able administration of the late Jagirdar. In advising an increase in the *nazarana* and the annual tribute, the Company had also in mind the necessity of obviating "the possible ill-consequences of too large an accumulation of property in the hands of a principal family of the Rohillas, who, from

¹²¹ *Political Letter to Court*, 21 March 1795, para. 36.

¹²² *Political Letter to Court*, 31 October 1795, para. 40.

¹²³ *Aitchison, op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 117.

¹²⁴ *Political Letter to Court*, 14 December 1792, para. 137.

¹²⁵ *Political Letter to Court*, 29 January 1793, para. 31.

¹²⁶ P. Basu, *Oudh and the East India Company*, p. 69.

obvious cause, cannot be cordially attached to the Vazir, and if they should possess the means of independence, might, at some future period, be disposed to throw off their subjection to him."¹²⁷

These words of the Fort William Council proved prophetic. While the discussions were proceeding, news arrived that Ghulam Muhammad Khan, a younger brother of Muhammad Ali Khan, had killed the latter and seized his estates "with the concurrence, or at least without the opposition, of the other brothers, and the principal chiefs and people of the country."¹²⁸ The Company intervened promptly and urged the adoption of the strongest measures against the usurper and fratricide. Justifying the intervention, the Fort William Council observed, "It was obvious that as His Excellency's measures on this occasion would be considered throughout Hindustan as directed by our Government the discredit of allowing Ghulam Mohamed to enjoy the fruits of his violence would infallibly devolve upon us, and would naturally and unavoidably be imputed to our inability to punish it. It is hardly necessary to say that such an opinion in its consequences would soon add much to disrepute."¹²⁹ Further, if the ambitions of Ghulam Muhammad were not checked at the outset, he was likely to enter into connections dangerous to the Fort William Council, which he received only on 15 November.¹³⁰ The Vazir required no prompting to take strong measures against the Rohillas, and he evinced a desire "to get entire possession of the improved assets of the Rampoor Jagir, as well as the treasures left by the late possessor of it", and to allow pensions to Faizullah's family.¹³¹ The Fort William Council was at this stage opposed to the adoption of such an extreme measure and it felt that the policy of firmness should be coupled with a spirit of conciliation. To create a division among the Rohillas, who appeared to be unanimous in their support of the usurper, it advised the Vazir to make it clear that he had no desire to destroy the Rohillas and was ready to confer the jagir on any one of the sons of Faizullah who remained attached to him.¹³² The Vazir accepted the advice and issued a proclamation accordingly; to avoid bloodshed, even Ghulam Muhammad was offered personal amnesty if he came to Lucknow unattended.¹³³

In the meantime, the Commander in Chief Sir Robert Abercromby, who happened to be in the neighbourhood, took charge of the military operations and marched towards Bareilly, which was being threatened by Ghulam Muhammad. On 25 October 1754 the two armies were poised against each other and a fight seemed inevitable. At this juncture Abercromby issued a proclamation reiterating the promise already made, that the Rampur Jagir would be given to a member of the family of Faizullah, provided the Rohillas deserted the standard of Ghulam Muhammad. But this attempt to avert a fight did not succeed, and on the following day a battle was fought at Kana near Bareilly. The Rohillas fought with their usual valour, which evoked the admiration of Abercromby; he remarked, "More determined and cool bravery

¹²⁷ Political Letter to Court, 13 August 1754, para. 47.

¹²⁸ Political Letter to Court, 25 August 1754, para. 1.

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 3.

¹³⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 6.

¹³¹ Political Letter to Court, 30 December 1754, para. 52.

¹³² *Ibid.*, para. 51.

¹³³ *Ibid.*, para. 52.

in an enemy I never experienced." But the victory lay with the Company's troops; the Rohillas were forced to retreat and their camp was captured.¹³⁴

On receiving the news of this victory, the Fort William Council met on 6 November 1794 to take fresh stock of the situation. The fact that Ghulam Muhammad could collect a force of 25,000 men showed that the Rohillas were still formidable, and it felt that a continuance of the *jagir* in the family of Faizullah would infallibly lay the foundation for future disturbances. It therefore advised the Vazir to annex the *jagir* and to grant pensions or small *jagirs* to such of the members of the family who had not supported the cause of the usurper. Further, the work of settlement was to be entrusted to the Resident, who would act on behalf of the Vazir, and until this work was completed a body of the Company's troops was to be stationed at Rampur.¹³⁵

The instructions issued by the Fort William Council on the lines stated above did not, however, affect the course of events. After the battle of Katra, Abercromby pursued the rebels, took possession of Rampur, and encountered Ghulam Muhammad's forces again at Amarapore, near Rehr, on 5 November 1794.¹³⁶ Knowing the odds against him, Ghulam Muhammad surrendered on the next day "under an assurance of personal security, a promise of a provision and an expectation of one for his followers."¹³⁷ On 10 November, with the consent of the Vazir, Abercromby proclaimed that a *jagir* would be given to Ahmad Ali Khan, the grandson of Faizullah and the legal heir to his estate.¹³⁸ In view of these commitments, Abercromby could not give effect to the instructions of the Fort William Council, which he received only on 15 November.¹³⁹ The Fort William Council, after due deliberation, decided not to reverse the decisions taken by Abercromby, as any attempt to alter them "would have exposed the Commander in Chief to degradation as well as the public faith, pledged through him and the Resident, to imputation."¹⁴⁰ In the final agreement that was entered into between the Vazir and the Rohillas on 7 December, the Company standing guarantee, Ahmad Ali was granted a *jagir* yielding 10 lakhs of rupees annually, and the Rohilla chiefs were required to hand over to the Vazir the family treasures of Faizullah excepting 14,000 gold *mohars* stated to have been spent during the rebellion.¹⁴¹ According to Francklin, the value of the treasures surrendered amounted to three lakh and eighty thousand gold *mohars*. Of this amount, the Vazir presented eleven lakhs of rupees to the Company's troops.¹⁴² Ghulam Muhammad was allowed a pension and permitted to reside at Benares.¹⁴³

As Oudh had, in practice, ceased to have a foreign policy of her own, there are only a few references to the subject in the correspondence, and they only serve to emphasise further the dependence of the Vazir on the Company. The Mughal Emperor Shah Alam renewed his request to the Vazir and the

¹³⁴ *Political Letter to Court*, 30 December 1794, para. 105.

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*, paras. 109-13.

¹³⁶ *Ibid.*, paras. 115-19.

¹³⁷ *Ibid.*, paras. 119 & 123.

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 123.

¹³⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 122.

¹⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 125.

¹⁴¹ *Political Letter to Court*, 30 December 1794, para. 127.

¹⁴² W. Francklin, *The History of the Reign of Shah Aulam*, p. 228.

¹⁴³ *Political Letter to Court*, 12 May 1795, para. 41.

Company to come to his aid and restore his authority; but the Company was not inclined to pick up a quarrel with Sindia and gave no encouragement to him.¹⁴¹ The relations between the Vazir and the Marathas were peaceful. There is a reference to two European adventurers by name Arnott and Bellassis, who were casting guns and making camp equipage at Lucknow for Ali Bahadur, a Maratha chieftain. Arnott was ordered to be apprehended, but he succeeded in escaping to the Maratha country. He was obliged, however, to surrender, when diplomatic pressure was brought on the Marathas. As for Bellassis, he at first disclaimed all responsibility, throwing the whole blame on Arnott; but he later disappeared from the scene and was reported to have joined Arnott. He did not surrender along with the latter and no further news was received of him.¹⁴² Again, there is an interesting reference to the Vazir consulting the Company as to what reply he should send to a formal intimation of the Maratha victory over the Nizam in the battle of Kharda received from Daulat Rao Sindia. He was advised that in view of his friendly relations with both the powers any reply would be "exceptionable and however guarded liable to misconstruction."¹⁴³ Again, there are a few references to Sikh-Maratha conflicts,¹⁴⁴ but Oudh appears to have been free from Sikh ravages during 1792-95. There is, however, a mention of the Sikh incursion of 1790, the capture of Col. Stuart and his later release.¹⁴⁵

The Nawab of Arcot

Muhammad Ali Walajah, the hero of the Carnatic Wars and also of the Arcot debts, played in his old age an insignificant part in the political life of the country. The only important event in his relations with the Company was the conclusion of the treaty of 1792.¹⁴⁶ Under the treaty of 1787 the Nawab was to pay the Company a sum of nine lakhs of star pagodas towards the military establishment maintained for his protection in times of peace: in case war broke out in the Carnatic or on the coast of Coromandel, he was to pay four-fifths of the state revenues to meet the general expenses of the war. If he failed in his pecuniary obligations, the Company had the right to appoint superintendents to supervise and collect revenues from the Nawab's officers in certain specified districts. When the war with Tipu broke out in 1790, it was found that no revenues could be realised through the officers of the Nawab. The Company took over full control of the management of the revenues, although this was not stipulated in the treaty.¹⁴⁷ To avoid similar difficulties in future and also to ensure better administration of the Carnatic, Cornwallis would have liked to assume permanently the entire management of the country, granting the Nawab an allowance for the maintenance of his family and the support of his dignity. But, knowing that the Nawab's free consent would not be forthcoming to such an arrangement, he confined himself

¹⁴¹ *Political Letters to Court*, 15 May 1794, para. 27; and 17 August 1794, para. 51.

¹⁴² *Political Letters to Court*, 6 March 1795, para. 17; 21 March 1795, paras. 13-17; 18 August 1795, paras. 65-67; and 12 May 1795, para. 47.

¹⁴³ *Political Letter to Court*, 12 May 1795, para. 27.

¹⁴⁴ *Political Letters to Court*, 8 April 1792, para. 33; 12 May 1795, para. 28.

¹⁴⁵ *Political Letters from Court*, 25 April 1792, para. 35; and 25 June 1793, para. 20.

¹⁴⁶ *Political Letter to Court*, 3 September 1792, paras. 27-29.

¹⁴⁷ Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. X, pp. 4 and 56.

to remedying only such evils as called for immediate reform.¹⁵¹ Under the terms of the treaty concluded on 12 July 1792, if the Nawab failed in his pecuniary obligations in times of peace, the Company reserved to itself the right to assume the management of certain specified districts; and in times of war, it would possess full authority over the whole of the Carnatic, the Nawab being entitled to one-fifth of the net revenue of the country. As the collection of tribute from some of the pategars had proved troublesome in the past, the responsibility was transferred to the Company without prejudice to the paramount rights of the Nawab; and the revenues so transferred were shown to the credit of the Nawab. Relative to these pategars, whose names were specified in the treaty, the Company engaged itself, in so far as was consistent with the realisation of the tributes from them, to enforce their allegiance and submission to the Nawab "in customary ceremonies, and in furnishing the polygar peons, according to established custom, for the collection of the revenues, the support of government, and for the protection of the property of the inhabitants of the . . . Nawab's country."¹⁵²

While negotiating the treaty of 1792, Cornwallis reached an agreement with the Nawab with regard to another matter. The Nawab, through his agent Macpherson, had brought an action in England against the Company for an account of profits and rents derived from his territories between the years 1781 and 1785. He now agreed to withdraw the suit on condition that Cornwallis undertook to adjust under his own direction "the whole of his account between him and the Company". Two officers of the Madras Government, Moubray and Woolf, were posted to examine and report on the accounts.¹⁵³

The Nawab's claims over the pategars who paid tribute to the Company gave occasion to certain minor disputes. In 1792 the Nawab asked the Pategars of Venkatagiri and Kalahasti to send military assistance to put down certain disturbances in Ongole and Nellore Districts. Again, their assistance was sought next year to put down the Pategars of Moograul, Paukhal and Pelloor for committing murders and depredations. The Company feared that such indefinite and irregular demands for troops, unless kept within reasonable limits, would prove burdensome and vexatious, and it advised the Nawab to be moderate in his demands and limit them to clear cases of necessity.¹⁵⁴ Another controversy arose on the death of the Raja of Kalahasti (Colastry). The Nawab demanded a large sum of money by way of *nazarana* at the time of the investiture of the new ruler, and also expressed a wish to resume some of the taluks of the deceased Raja and include them in his own *khalsa* possessions. In this he was only following the ancient practice of extorting as much as possible on a succession, but the Company considered these demands to be unreasonable, and on the suggestion of Hobart, the Governor of Madras, a *nazarana* of one lakh of rupees was fixed.¹⁵⁵

¹⁵¹ Letter from Cornwallis to the Secret Committee of the Court, 9 July 1792. C. Ross, *Correspondence of Charles, first Marquis Cornwallis*, Vol. II, p. 545.

¹⁵² Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 63.

¹⁵³ *Political Letter to Court*, 3 September 1792, paras. 30-31. Ross: *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 174.

¹⁵⁴ *Political Letters to Court*, 14 December 1792, paras. 35-36; 18 May 1793, paras. 8-12; and 31 May 1794, paras. 2-3.

¹⁵⁵ *Political Letters to Court*, 12 May 1795, para. 4; and 18 August 1795, paras. 2-5.

Again, there is a reference in the correspondence to a complaint by the Nawab that two of the Company's officers, Kindersley and Torin, who had been employed in the collection of the revenues of the Carnatic during the Third Mysore War, were guilty of embezzlement; large sums of money were supposed to have been spent by them "in the repairs of tanks, water courses &c., which his people could not discover anywhere to have taken place." The Madras Government believed that the conduct of these officers was unreproachable; but to remove all traces of suspicion from the Nawab's mind, they decided to allow his men to examine the records themselves.¹⁵⁶ The final result of the enquiry is not known. The last entry about the Nawab records his death which took place on 13 October 1795.¹⁵⁷

The Raja of Tanjore

In 1787 the Company had concluded a treaty with the Raja of Tanjore on lines similar to those concluded with the Nawab of the Carnatic in the same year, which has been referred to above. During the war with Tipu the administration of Tanjore was taken over by the Company, and at the end of it a proposal for a fresh treaty, again similar to the one offered to the Nawab of the Carnatic, was made to the Raja.¹⁵⁸ Amar Singh, the ruler of Tanjore, was unwilling to accept the proposal, and his unwillingness was attributed to the evil influence of some European advisers. The opposition of the Raja to the proposal, and the very unfavourable opinion entertained of his character and abilities—even his sanity was doubted—made the Company markedly disinclined to restore the administrative control of his kingdom to him.¹⁵⁹ The Raja ultimately acquiesced in the Company's demands, and the Company also felt that it would be more suitable to hazard an error on the side of leniency than to expose itself to the charge of having treated him with excessive rigour. The Raja was finally reinstated on 12 July 1793 on signing the treaty and on promising "a strict adherence to its several stipulations."¹⁶⁰

The Company's attention was also drawn during the period to the rival claims of Amar Singh and Sarbhoji to the throne of Tanjore. The history of the case is briefly as follows. Tuljaji, the Raja of Tanjore, died in 1787. Just before his death, as he had no issue of his own, he had taken in adoption a boy from a collateral branch by name Sarbhoji, and nominated his illegitimate half-brother Amar Singh as the regent of the state and the guardian of the boy during his minority. The latter, however, claimed full rights of sovereignty on the ground that Sarbhoji's adoption was illegal. *Inter alia*, he urged that Tuljaji was of unsound mind at the time of the adoption, and that Sarbhoji, being the only son of his natural parents, could not under Hindu law be given away in adoption. In 1787 Sir Archibald Campbell went to Tanjore, and on the advice of the *pandits* there declared the adoption

¹⁵⁶ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May 1793, paras. 13-15.

¹⁵⁷ *Political Letter to Court*, 31 October 1795, para. 2.

¹⁵⁸ C. K. Srinivasan, *Maratha Rule in the Carnatic*, pp. 314-16. Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. X, pp. 8, 88 & 94.

¹⁵⁹ *Political Letters to Court*, 14 December 1792, paras. 46-48; and 29 January 1793, paras. 14-15.

¹⁶⁰ *Political Letters to Court*, 18 May 1793, para. 18; and 13 August 1793, para. 1.

invalid and recognised Amar Singh as the rightful heir to the throne.¹⁶¹ The cause of Sarbhoji was then taken up by Schwartz, the well-known missionary of Tanjore. He had been the boy's tutor, and to his care the boy had been entrusted by Tuljaji at the time of his death. Schwartz's representations to the Madras Government led to the reopening of the whole question. Amar Singh's relation with the Company during the period was not cordial and this also doubtless affected its decision in the matter. In 1792, when the subject of the revised treaty was being discussed, it was even proposed that, taking advantage of the fact that Amar Singh had no male issue, Sarbhoji should be declared the presumptive heir as a measure of restraint upon Amar Singh's conduct.¹⁶² Later on, since repeated charges of persecution and cruelty were brought against Amar Singh, Sarbhoji and the widows of the late Raja were removed to Madras in spite of his vigorous protests.¹⁶³ The legal issue regarding succession was referred by Cornwallis in 1793 to the Calcutta and Benares *pandits* for their advisory opinion.¹⁶⁴ Sarbhoji's claim was finally held valid and he was placed on the throne in 1798.

The Raja of Travancore

The Company had declared war on Tipu in May 1790 ostensibly to protect the Raja of Travancore. The war had been fought and won. In the negotiations that followed the Raja was allowed no part and he was not even consulted. He felt that he had been cold-shouldered and attributed the absence of cordial relations with the Company to the machinations of Powney, the Resident at his court. The relations between the two became greatly strained and the Company was compelled to recall the latter.¹⁶⁵ Later on other officers were employed to carry on negotiations with the Raja, notably Boddam and Dow, both of them members of the Malabar Commission.

The differences between the Company and the Raja centred round four subjects. There was first the Raja's claim to the taluks of Parur, Alangad and Kunnatnad, a subject which has been discussed above.¹⁶⁶ Next, there was the question of the expenses of the war. In 1788, under the shadow of a likely invasion of Travancore by Tipu, letters had been exchanged between the Raja and Sir Archibald Campbell, the Governor of Madras, relative to the terms on which the Company would be willing to render military assistance, but no formal treaty had been concluded. According to the understanding that had been reached, two battalions of the Company's troops were to be stationed on the Raja's frontiers at his expense. If any additional force was required for his protection the cost was to be met by the Company.¹⁶⁷ When Tipu invaded Travancore and carried everything before him the Raja sought to obtain maximum help from the Company at any price. A regiment headed by Col. Hartley was sent on the distinct understanding that the Raja

¹⁶¹ Srinivasan, *op. cit.*, pp. 314-19. *The Manual of Tanjore District*, pp. 818-19.

¹⁶² *Political Letter to Court*, 14 December 1792, para. 48.

¹⁶³ *Political Letters to Court*, 14 December 1792, paras. 48-50; and 29 January 1793, paras. 16-18.

¹⁶⁴ *Political Letter to Court*, 13 August 1793, paras. 35-36.

¹⁶⁵ *Political Proceedings*, 17 December 1792, nos. 8 and 13; and 11 January 1793, nos. 4 and 5. *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May 1793, para. 22.

¹⁶⁶ See page 5 above.

¹⁶⁷ Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. X, pp. 224-27.

would pay its expenses. Later on, under instructions from Cornwallis, a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs per year was demanded as Travancore's contribution to meet the expenses of the war as long as it lasted. The Raja acceded to the demand at the moment of his distress, and made certain payments in fulfilment of these obligations: he appears to have paid in full his contribution of Rs. 10 lakhs a year. But a controversy arose about meeting the expenses of Col. Hartley's regiment. After the conclusion of war the Raja referred to his earlier agreement with Campbell and contended that it was not fair to expect from him anything more than the cost of maintaining two battalions.¹⁶⁸

There was then the question of the future relations of the Raja with the Company. The Raja expressed his willingness to pay the cost of maintaining two battalions in return for the protection he got from his alliance with the Company, and this was regarded by the latter as a fair offer.¹⁶⁹

There was lastly the question of procurement of pepper from Travancore. To overcome certain difficulties that had been experienced, Abercromby, the Governor of Bombay, reached an agreement with the Raja on 28 January 1793 for the supply of certain quantities of pepper at a specified price for a period of ten years in return for arms and European goods.¹⁷⁰ The Raja failed to supply the full quantity agreed to and explained his failure to have been due to an unfavourable season. The Company's servants on the other hand alleged that pepper was being sold to other merchants secretly, and this was quite probable as they themselves admitted that there was a wide disparity between the market price and the price specified in the agreement.¹⁷¹

All these differences between the Company and the Raja were resolved by a treaty concluded in 1795. Under its terms the Raja's claim to the taluks of Parur, Alangad and Kunnatnad was recognised. All outstanding claims relative to the war expenses were given up. The Raja agreed to pay annually, both in peace and war, a sum equivalent to the expenses of three battalions of sepoys, together with a company of European artillery and two companies of lascars, and he was assured that no other demands would be made on him for his protection in the event of war. The pepper contract was made a contract in perpetuity, subject to agreement, after the expiration of the existing contract, as to price, period and quantity. The treaty was ratified in 1797 by the Court of Directors.¹⁷²

Assam

We shall now pass on to a consideration of the Company's relations with its north-eastern neighbours. In Assam, the Ahoms, who were allied to the Shans of Upper Burma, had ruled for over a century and their power was now on the decline under the inefficient rule of Lakshmi Singh (1769-80) and

¹⁶⁸ *Political Proceedings*, 25 November 1793, no. 37. *Political Letter to Court*, 28 October 1793, para. 11.

¹⁶⁹ *Political Letter to Court*, 14 December 1792, para. 57.

¹⁷⁰ Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. X, pp. 231-32.

¹⁷¹ *Political Letters to Court*, 17 January 1794, para. 50; and 18 August 1795, para. 53.

¹⁷² Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. X, pp. 228-34. *Political Letter to Court*, 31 October 1795, paras. 10-12.

Gaurinath Singh (1780-95). At the time the correspondence begins, the country was in a state of anarchy. The Moamarias, a religious sect in Upper Assam, had often risen in revolt against the savage persecution of the Ahom kings. In 1788 Gaurinath Singh, defeated by them and driven out of his capital, fled to Gauhati, where he was obliged to stay during the next six years.¹⁷³ To these troubles were added another which led to the Company's intervention in the affairs of Assam. About 1790, Gaurinath executed Hangsanarayan, the Chief of Darrang and one of the six principal vassal chiefs of Assam, on a charge of sedition, and set up in his place another member of the family, by name Bishnu Narayan.¹⁷⁴ Kistna Narayan, the son of Hangsanarayan, rose in revolt. He sought the assistance of the Company and even promised to become its vassal, but the Company refused to intervene. He was, however, able to gather round him *barkandazes* or mercenaries from the neighbouring province of Bengal and recover his patrimony. The Assamese King now complained, with reason, that the Company's territory was being used as a recruiting ground by his enemies, and sought its assistance to drive away the *barkandazes*.¹⁷⁵

The Company's attitude was at first one of non-intervention. Lumsden, the Collector of Rangpur, had been reprimanded for having allowed Kistna-narayan to levy troops openly within his charge. Later on, however, when the King of Assam complained that the trouble in his country was principally caused by the Bengal mercenaries, the Company felt morally bound to help him.¹⁷⁶ But there were other considerations of equal importance. It provided an admirable opportunity for the Company to obtain an intimate knowledge of the country and to develop commercial relations: the Fort William Council deplored that it knew "little more of the interior parts of Napaul and Assam than of the interior parts of China", and it hoped by this opportunity to obtain good surveys and valuable information regarding the trade, manufactures and natural production of the country, and also the customs and manners of its inhabitants.¹⁷⁷ The object of intervention was "no less political than humane."¹⁷⁸

So Captain Thomas Welsh was sent to Assam with a small force in September 1792.¹⁷⁹ He soon found himself drawn into the vortex of Ahom politics and became the arbiter of the affairs of the local Government. Kistna-narayan, the Raja of Darrang, was defeated, and he sought refuge in Bhutan. He was later induced by Welsh by fair promises to return to the allegiance of the King and disband his force of *barkandazes*. But the major task proved to be to make Gaurinath acceptable to his people, for, in the words of Gait, Gaurinath was the most incompetent, blood-thirsty, disreputable and cowardly of all the Ahom kings.¹⁸⁰ Cornwallis was unhappy about this new turn of events. He had sent troops to help Gaurinath to restore order in his state,

¹⁷³ Bhuyan, *Anglo-Assamese Relations (1770-1826)*, pp. 222-31.

¹⁷⁴ Banerjee, *The Eastern Frontier of India*, p. 13. Bhuyan, *op. cit.*, p. 273.

¹⁷⁵ Banerjee, *op. cit.*, p. 13.

¹⁷⁶ *Political Letter to Court*, 14 October 1792; para. 10. Also, Ross, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 188.

¹⁷⁷ *Political Letter to Court*, 14 October 1792, para. 11.

¹⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 4.

¹⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 13.

¹⁸⁰ Sir Edward Gait, *A History of Assam*, p. 215.

and with the knowledge he now possessed of the country he could not see how he could reconcile it "to any principle of justice or humanity to establish by force the authority of the wretched Rajah and his worthless and cruel ministers in that country."¹⁸¹ Under instructions from the Governor General, Welsh took firm action. He compelled the king to dismiss his ministers who were the engines of his oppressive rule. Early in 1793 he tried to summon a meeting of the chiefs to bring about a reconciliation between them and the Raja, but the attempt proved abortive.¹⁸² Things drifted, and the Company was more and more involved in Ahom politics. The task of forcing an unpopular monarch on an unwilling people had become increasingly difficult. On 10 January 1794 Shore wrote to Dundas, "I confess for my own part that I sincerely regret this Government ever interfered in it, and my present wish is to extricate ourselves from prosecuting our interposition, as speedily as possible, without discredit, and if it can be effected, with some commercial benefit."¹⁸³ A firm order recalling the expedition was issued on 19 March 1794, and the piteous appeals of Gaurinath and the personal views of Welsh were of no avail. When the order was received, Welsh had recovered Rangpur, reinstated the Raja in his capital city and was engaged in subduing the Moamarias.¹⁸⁴ In obedience to the order, he returned to Bengal in July 1794,¹⁸⁵ leaving the country in the same anarchical condition as he found it when he first arrived. The last notice we have of Assam in the correspondence is of the deposition of Gaurinath, which on later enquiry proved to be false.¹⁸⁶

As for the commercial objects of the expedition, an agreement was concluded by Welsh with Gaurinath on 28 February 1793. But in view of the chaotic state of the country the Fort William Council did not publish it for fear that it might mislead merchants to involve themselves too deeply in trade.¹⁸⁷

Nepal

For several years before 1792, the Nepalese had been extending their conquests to the north at the expense of Tibet, and the Emperor of China sent a large army to punish them. At this time, Duncan, the Resident at Benares, was negotiating a trade agreement with Nepal through a merchant by name Abdul Qadir. To gain the support of the Company against China, the King of Nepal signed an agreement with it on 1 March 1792, and also applied to it for military aid.¹⁸⁸ The Company was not, however, willing to take sides,

¹⁸¹ Letter from Cornwallis to Welsh, dated 28 December 1792. Ross, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 188.

¹⁸² *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May 1793, paras. 100-02. Banerjee, *op. cit.*, p. 37.

¹⁸³ Holden Furber (Ed.), *The Private Record of an Indian Governor-Generalship: the Correspondence of Sir John Shore, Governor General, with Henry Dundas, President of the Board of Control, 1793-98*, p. 35.

¹⁸⁴ *Political Letters to Court*, 15 May 1794, paras. 29-31; and 31 May 1794, paras. 21-22.

¹⁸⁵ Banerjee, *op. cit.*, p. 51.

¹⁸⁶ *Political Letter to Court*, 12 May 1795, para. 52.

¹⁸⁷ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May 1793, para. 104. Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. XII, p. 112.

¹⁸⁸ *Political Letter to Court*, 14 October 1792, para. 6. *Political Letter from Court*, 5 June 1795, para. 5. Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. XIV, pp. 35-36 and 48-49.

and it was decided to send Capt. Kirkpatrick to Nepal to mediate and bring about a reconciliation.¹⁸⁹ But before he could start on his journey, Nepal had been compelled to conclude an ignominious treaty with China.¹⁹⁰ Although the original reason for sending out a mission no longer existed, the Company felt that Capt. Kirkpatrick's mission would still be valuable in developing closer relations with Nepal. Accompanied by Abdul Qadir and Gujraje Misser, who had assisted in the conclusion of the earlier treaty, Capt. Kirkpatrick went to Nepal in January 1793 and had an interview with the Raja on 7 March. There was a powerful party in the country opposed to the mission, and Capt. Kirkpatrick received a broad hint that his stay for a longer time would not be appreciated. He therefore left Katmandu on 24 March and returned to Calcutta.¹⁹¹ Although it was patent that the mission had failed, the Court of Directors hoped that it had at least helped in removing the shyness of the Nepal Government, and instructed the Government of India to be watchful to build upon every opportunity for opening "new channels for the British staples to the extensive regions of Thibet."¹⁹²

In 1794, with a view to set on foot trade relations with Nepal, Shore wished to send Abdul Qadir, referred to above, in the capacity of a merchant with recommendatory letters.¹⁹³ On this subject he wrote to Dundas on 7 February 1795, "The attempt is made upon so moderate a scale, that the loss will be trifling even if it should entirely fail; but I have better hopes."¹⁹⁴ Qadir's journey was delayed at the outset because the Raja of Nepal was averse to receiving him. Gujraje Misser was sent to overcome his opposition, and he was able to obtain permission for Qadir's visit.¹⁹⁵ Nothing tangible, however, appears to have resulted from these efforts.

Burma

Arakan, on the border of Chittagong District, was conquered by the Burmese King Bodawpaya (1782-1819) in 1784-85. Following the conquest, some of the Arakanese who were known as Mags crossed the river Naaf, which formed the boundary between Arakan and Chittagong, and took refuge in the Company's territory to avoid persecution. The Company gave them land and allowed them to settle down. There were similar movements of refugees from time to time.¹⁹⁶ In January 1794, information was received that 1,500 Mags crossed the Naaf, closely pursued by a Burmese army estimated at 7,000. The latter, although remaining peaceful, refused to withdraw from the Company's territory, on which it had encamped, until the fugitives were surrendered.¹⁹⁷ Col. Erskine was despatched to reinforce the Company's troops.¹⁹⁸ But, since the Burmese were quite peaceful, and there were no signs of any aggressive intention on their part, no steps were taken to expel them

¹⁸⁹ *Political Letter to Court*, 14 October 1792, paras. 2-8.

¹⁹⁰ *Political Letter to Court*, 14 December 1792, para. 139.

¹⁹¹ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May 1793, paras. 90-95.

¹⁹² *Political Letter from Court*, 5 June 1795, para. 4.

¹⁹³ *Political Letter to Court*, 30 December 1794, para. 134.

¹⁹⁴ Furber, *op. cit.*, p. 65.

¹⁹⁵ *Political Letter to Court*, 12 May 1795, paras. 49-50.

¹⁹⁶ Banerjee, *op. cit.*, pp. 56-62.

¹⁹⁷ *Political Letter to Court*, 15 February 1794, para. 2.

¹⁹⁸ *Political Letter to Court*, 10 March 1794, paras. 11-15.

by force. The precise nature of the Burmese demands was not clear at first. After tedious negotiations and careful inquiry into the charges against the fugitives, three of them were surrendered in 1795 as presumptive delinquents against the Burmese State.¹⁹⁹ The demand for the surrender of the families of these persons, however, was turned down, for it was feared that they would be put to death under the Burmese law which involved "in one common guilt and punishment every member of a criminal's family."²⁰⁰

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Relations with the European Powers : Peace-time Relations

So far we have considered the Company's relations with the Indian princes. We shall turn our attention now to its relations with the European colonial powers having possessions in India and the Far East. Till the outbreak of war with France on 1 February 1793, the news of which reached India only on 1 June 1793,²⁰⁵ the relations were friendly and amicable. Many peace-time problems, common to friendly neighbouring powers, arose between them from time to time, and of them may be mentioned the following:

France : In 1792 France requested the Company to accord permission to export grain from Bengal to Pondicherry and Mauritius, both of which were suffering from scarcity. The Company gave the necessary permission in respect of Pondicherry, principally on the ground that its subjects in the

¹⁹⁹ *Political Letters to Court*, 15 February 1794, paras. 2-7; 10 March 1794, paras. 11-15; 15 May 1794, paras. 33-35; 18 August 1794, paras. 54-57; 30 December 1794, paras. 138-40; 6 March 1795, paras. 19-21; and 12 May 1795, para. 53.

²⁰⁰ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 August 1795, para. 70.

²⁰¹ Banerjee, *op. cit.*, pp. 84-86. *Political Letters to Court*, 30 December 1794, para. 141; 12 May 1795, para. 54.

²⁰² *Political Letters to Court*, 12 May 1795, para. 54; 18 August 1795, para. 71; and 31 October 1795, paras. 42-43.

²⁰³ Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. XII, p. 224.

²⁰⁴ Banerjee, *op. cit.*, pp. 90-98.

²⁰⁵ *Political Letter to Court*, 1 August 1793, para. 5.

and it was decided to send Capt. Kirkpatrick to Nepal to mediate and bring about a reconciliation.¹⁸⁹ But before he could start on his journey, Nepal had been compelled to conclude an ignominious treaty with China.¹⁹⁰ Although the original reason for sending out a mission no longer existed, the Company felt that Capt. Kirkpatrick's mission would still be valuable in developing closer relations with Nepal. Accompanied by Abdul Qadir and Gujraje Misser, who had assisted in the conclusion of the earlier treaty, Capt. Kirkpatrick went to Nepal in January 1793 and had an interview with the Raja on 7 March. There was a powerful party in the country opposed to the mission, and Capt. Kirkpatrick received a broad hint that his stay for a longer time would not be appreciated. He therefore left Katmandu on 24 March and returned to Calcutta.¹⁹¹ Although it was patent that the mission had failed, the Court of Directors hoped that it had at least helped in removing the shyness of the Nepal Government, and instructed the Government of India to be watchful to build upon every opportunity for opening "new channels for the British staples to the extensive regions of Thibet."¹⁹²

In 1794, with a view to set on foot trade relations with Nepal, Shore wished to send Abdul Qadir, referred to above, in the capacity of a merchant with recommendatory letters.¹⁹³ On this subject he wrote to Dundas on 7 February 1795, "The attempt is made upon so moderate a scale, that the loss will be trifling even if it should entirely fail; but I have better hopes."¹⁹⁴ Qadir's journey was delayed at the outset because the Raja of Nepal was averse to receiving him. Gujraje Misser was sent to overcome his opposition, and he was able to obtain permission for Qadir's visit.¹⁹⁵ Nothing tangible, however, appears to have resulted from these efforts.

Burma

Arakan, on the border of Chittagong District, was conquered by the Burmese King Bodawpaya (1782-1819) in 1784-85. Following the conquest, some of the Arakanese who were known as Mags crossed the river Naaf, which formed the boundary between Arakan and Chittagong, and took refuge in the Company's territory to avoid persecution. The Company gave them land and allowed them to settle down. There were similar movements of refugees from time to time.¹⁹⁶ In January 1794, information was received that 1,500 Mags crossed the Naaf, closely pursued by a Burmese army estimated at 7,000. The latter, although remaining peaceful, refused to withdraw from the Company's territory, on which it had encamped, until the fugitives were surrendered.¹⁹⁷ Col. Erskine was despatched to reinforce the Company's troops.¹⁹⁸ But, since the Burmese were quite peaceful, and there were no signs of any aggressive intention on their part, no steps were taken to expel them

¹⁸⁹ *Political Letter to Court*, 14 October 1792, paras. 2-8.

¹⁹⁰ *Political Letter to Court*, 14 December 1792, para. 139.

¹⁹¹ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May 1793, paras. 90-95.

¹⁹² *Political Letter from Court*, 5 June 1795, para. 4.

¹⁹³ *Political Letter to Court*, 30 December 1794, para. 134.

¹⁹⁴ Furber, *op. cit.*, p. 65.

¹⁹⁵ *Political Letter to Court*, 12 May 1795, paras. 49-50.

¹⁹⁶ Banerjee, *op. cit.*, pp. 56-62.

¹⁹⁷ *Political Letter to Court*, 15 February 1794, para. 2.

¹⁹⁸ *Political Letter to Court*, 10 March 1794, paras. 11-15.

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²⁰³ Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. XII, p. 224.

²⁰⁴ Banerjee, *op. cit.*, pp. 90-98.

²⁰⁵ *Political Letter to Court*, 1 August 1793, para. 5.

neighbourhood of the town had sought refuge within its walls on two occasions, first when Tipu invaded the Carnatic, and again when certain bands of plunderers infested the locality. The request in respect of Mauritius was turned down, because the plea of distress could be put forward by any country, and the needs of its own province of Bengal had necessitated the imposition of the embargo on the export of grain.²⁰⁶ Again, there are references to partisan disturbances in Chandernagore and the absence of organised government there; the Company experienced certain difficulties as different persons claimed to speak on behalf of the French nation.²⁰⁷ Again, in 1791, Duane, the editor of a Calcutta newspaper, was deported by executive action on a complaint made by Lt. Col. Canaple, the Commandant for the affairs of the French nation, against his libellous writings. The Court approved the action taken in view of the special circumstances of the case, but observed for future guidance, "It will be very desirable and proper that on similar occasions parties who may find themselves aggrieved should prosecute the offender for the supposed libel in the Supreme Court of Judicature and which is the most constitutional mode of proceeding on such occasions."²⁰⁸ There are also references in the correspondence to the confiscation of salt imported by the French into Bengal in 1790-91,²⁰⁹ the price of a particular consignment of saltpetre supplied to the French,²¹⁰ slave trade by certain French ships,²¹¹ and the proceedings of the Supreme Court against commanders of French ships on complaints lodged by certain French seamen.²¹²

Holland : The Nawab of the Carnatic concluded a treaty with the Dutch relative to the pearl and *chank* fisheries of Tuticorin. The Company did not approve either the treaty or the manner in which it was concluded; but as the negotiations had been set on foot in 1788 with the approval of Sir Archibald Campbell, and the Dutch also appeared to possess certain old privileges, the Supreme Government felt that the treaty should not be questioned.²¹³ There are also references to certain saltpetre transactions,²¹⁴ the loan of a lakh of rupees by the Company to the Dutch,²¹⁵ and a proposal for the purchase of the Dutch possessions at Cochin.²¹⁶

Denmark : There are references to a Danish claim to their old factory at Calicut and the ground on which it stood. The Company held that whatever claims the Danes had were obliterated by Tipu when he invaded Malabar, and they had no claims left when the Company acquired Cochin from Tipu.²¹⁷

Portugal : There are references to the spiritual jurisdiction claimed by

²⁰⁶ *Foreign Letters to Court*, 25 January 1792, paras. 4-5; and 8 April 1792, paras. 2-3.

²⁰⁷ *Foreign Letters to Court*, 25 January 1792, para. 2; 8 April 1792, para 11; and 12 December 1792, para. 10.

²⁰⁸ *Foreign Letter from Court*, 25 April 1792, para. 18.

²⁰⁹ *Foreign Letter to Court*, 12 December 1792, para. 4. *Foreign Letter from Court*, 25 April 1792, para. 4.

²¹⁰ *Foreign Letter to Court*, 8 April 1792, paras. 4-9; and 3 September 1792, paras. 2-4.

²¹¹ *Foreign Letter from Court*, 25 April 1792, paras. 19-20.

²¹² *Foreign Letter to Court*, 12 December 1792, para. 12.

²¹³ *Political Letter to Court*, 14 December 1792, para. 55.

²¹⁴ *Foreign Letter to Court*, 3 September 1792, para. 5.

²¹⁵ *Foreign Letter to Court*, 8 April, 1792, paras. 13-18; and 12 December 1792, para. 14.

²¹⁶ *Political Letter to Court*, 17 January 1794, paras. 45-48.

²¹⁷ *Foreign Letters to Court*, 12 December 1792, paras. 15-17; and 31 May 1794, paras. 1-9. *Political Letter to Court*, 12 May 1795, paras 13-14.

the Archbishop of Goa over the Roman Catholic churches at Bombay,²¹⁸ and also to a dispute relative to naval etiquette arising out of a Portuguese frigate being prevented from firing a morning and an evening gun in the Bombay harbour.²¹⁹

Spain : In 1790 there was the fear of an outbreak of war with Spain over the question of the seizure of certain British ships in Nootka Sound, Vancouver, North America and the possibility of the French honouring the Family Compact of the old regime and joining hands with the Spaniards. There are references in the correspondence to preparations made in India in this connection. The storm, however, passed with the conclusion of the Nootka Convention on 28 October 1790.²²⁰

United States of America : In April 1794 Benjamin Joy came to India bearing a commission appointing him the Consul of the United States of America in India. The Fort William Council did not consider it proper to accord him recognition without the orders of the home authorities, and, pending instructions, permitted him to reside at Calcutta as a commercial agent, subject to the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the country.²²¹ Joy was the first American consul to serve in India, though he was not recognised as such by the Company. He left India sometime in 1795 owing to ill-health. No successor was appointed for another half a century.²²²

War with France and Holland

The war with France broke out on 1 February 1793, and the news reached India from the Consul at Alexandria on 1 June.²²³ Although no official intimation had been received, the Fort William Council decided to take the offensive and surprise the enemy. After a few days' siege, Pondicherry surrendered on 23 August.²²⁴ Chandernagore in Bengal,²²⁵ Yanam on the Coromandel Coast,²²⁶ Mahe in Malabar²²⁷ and other French possessions were also captured.

Plans for the invasion of Mauritius and Bourbon were then set on foot. On 23 October 1793, the Court of Directors instructed the Bengal Government to get ready by April 1794 a force consisting of 5,000 rank and file of European infantry, 300 European artillery, 1,000 lascars and two battalions of sepoys. Sir William Medows and Col. Stuart were appointed to lead the expedition, but the appointment of Medows was later cancelled.²²⁸ The Court's instructions were received at Calcutta only on 4 May 1794. In its reply dated

²¹⁸ *Foreign Letter to Court*, 8 April 1792, para. 20.

²¹⁹ *Political Letters to Court*, 14 December 1792, para. 65; and 29 January 1793, para. 24.

²²⁰ *Political Letter from Court*, 25 April 1792, paras. 42 & 44. *Political Proceedings*, 23 February 1791, no. 1. *The Cambridge Modern History*, Vol. VIII: *The French Revolution*, pp. 290-92.

²²¹ *Foreign Letter to Court*, 15 May 1794, paras. 10-13.

²²² *The Indian Archives*, Vol. IV, 1950, No. 2, pp. 219-27.

²²³ *Political Letter to Court*, 1 August 1793, para. 5.

²²⁴ *Political Letter to Court*, 28 October 1793, para. 2.

²²⁵ *Political Letter to Court*, 13 August 1793, para. 101.

²²⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 29.

²²⁷ *Political Letter to Court*, 28 October 1793, para. 15.

²²⁸ *Secret Letters from Court*, 23 October 1793 and 21 March 1794.

15 May 1794, the Fort William Council gave a detailed account of the military and political situation of the country and expressed its decided opinion that without a strong reinforcement of the European troops from home it would not be possible to undertake the expedition. It observed, "The Commander in Chief does not hesitate to state his sentiments, in which the Board entirely concur with him, that the peace establishment of the army in India, supposing it complete, is not more than sufficient for the protection of the Company's possessions, and that being already deficient in the proportion of a third nearly, a further reduction of the European infantry, rank and file, in the extent proposed by the Secret Committee or by Colonel Stuart, would be immediately dangerous." Adverting to the political situation, it expressed strong suspicion of Tipu's attitude, and observed that the security of the Company's dominion in India depended entirely on its strength to maintain it, and that no reliance could be placed on the attachment of the Indian powers to the British alliance.²²⁹ Further, Shore wrote confidentially to Dundas on 12 June 1794 that his doubts relative to the capacity of the Company's officers for conducting a war influenced him in this decision.²³⁰

In the meanwhile, the Court of Directors found that the naval force which was to be sent from home could not be sent, and it did not want the Company's ships to be diverted for the purpose of the expedition. On 21 March 1794, it directed the Bengal Government to postpone the expedition, and on receipt of the various appraisals of the state of the European forces in India, confirmed these instructions.²³¹

Preparations in India for undertaking the expedition at a more convenient opportunity continued.²³² The British Government sent M. de Grand Pre, "a French officer of talents and much local information", to assist the authorities in India.²³³ But the information he furnished and the opinions he expressed were not considered to be such as to warrant any alteration in the earlier appraisals regarding the size of the force required for undertaking the expedition. The idea was dropped for the time being in January 1795, and M. de Grand Pre was allowed to return to England.²³⁴

During the war with France, the Company maintained intimate and friendly relations with the other European powers, particularly with the Dutch, who were the allies of the British in the war. It promised help to the Dutch at Chinsurah and Cochin in case of attack by the French,²³⁵ and, on one occasion, gave them a loan of Rs. 63,000.²³⁶ The Dutch in turn sent a detachment of 800 Europeans from Ceylon to help the Company in the projected expedition against Mauritius.²³⁷ The Company also promised help to the Portuguese.²³⁸ But the weakness of the French power in India was such that

²²⁹ *Secret Letter to Court*, 15 May 1794.

²³⁰ Furber, *op. cit.*, p. 55.

²³¹ *Secret Letters from Court*, 21 March 1794 and 8 April 1794.

²³² *Secret Letters to Court*, 31 May 1794 and 25 August 1794.

²³³ *Secret Letter from Court*, 24 May 1794.

²³⁴ *Secret Letter to Court*, 31 January 1795, paras. 6-9.

²³⁵ *Political Letter to Court*, 1 August 1793, paras. 13-14. *Foreign Letter to Court*, para. 33.

²³⁶ *Foreign Letter to Court*, 15 May 1794, paras. 4-8.

²³⁷ *Secret Letter to Court*, 25 August 1794, para. 8.

²³⁸ *Secret Letter from Court*, 24 March 1795.

the Company's assistance was not, in fact, required by the other powers. Certain differences, however, arose between the Company and the other powers over the question of supply of saltpetre. As a war measure, the shipping of this article on foreign ships had been prohibited.²³⁹ This was strongly objected to by the Dutch and the Danes, but they were obliged to acquiesce in the action of the Company.²⁴⁰

The alliance with the Dutch soon underwent a marked change. Early in 1795 the French conquered Holland and the Stadtholder sought refuge in England.²⁴¹ Holland had now two Governments, one represented by the Stadtholder living on foreign soil, and the other by the Government in Holland, which was obliged to make common cause with the French. There was also a rift in the ranks of the Dutch colonials; some accepted the orders of the Stadtholder and supported the English cause, while the others espoused the French. Soon after the occupation of Holland came to be known in India, orders were issued for the capture of the Dutch possessions. The Dutch factories at Chinsura in Bengal,²⁴² Pulicat,²⁴³ Kilkarry and Tuticorin²⁴⁴ on the East Coast, and Surat²⁴⁵ and Cochin²⁴⁶ on the West Coast were all captured. The Madras Government sent an expedition under Major Archibald Brown to Malacca, and the island was captured along with its dependencies.²⁴⁷ Rio was surrendered to Sultan Muhammad, the king of Johore and Pahan, in order to obtain his goodwill and assistance in developing trade with his ports.²⁴⁸ Trincomalai and Fort Osnaburgh in Ceylon were captured in August 1795, and Jaffna and Batticaloa in September.²⁴⁹ Colombo was captured on 16 February 1796; this was greatly facilitated by Comte de Meuron, colonel *propriétaire* of the Swiss regiment in the Dutch service, who declared his continued allegiance to the Stadtholder and joined the English.²⁵⁰ At this time, with a view to obtain the assistance of the king of Ceylon against the Dutch, Hobart, the Governor of Madras, deputed an agent to negotiate an agreement; and a preliminary treaty was concluded by him on 12 October 1795, subject to ratification by the Madras Council.²⁵¹ Shore strongly objected to the precipitate manner in which the Madras Government had acted without awaiting the sentiments of the Governor General in Council and rejected the proposal that to avoid delay they should be vested with a discretionary authority to ratify the agreement. Regarding the terms of the agreement, he pointed out that they were not in consonance with the spirit of the promise held out to the Stadtholder's supporters that the Dutch settlements in Ceylon would be restored to them at the end of the war, and the agreement was

²³⁹ *Foreign Letter to Court*, 28 October 1793, para. 1. *Secret Letter to Court*, 30 December 1794, para. 4. *Secret Letter from Court*, 8 March 1794.

²⁴⁰ *Ibid.* Also *Foreign Letter to Court*, 18 August 1795, paras. 7-10.

²⁴¹ *The Cambridge Modern History*, Vol. VIII: *The French Revolution*, p. 436.

²⁴² *Secret Letter to Court*, 18 August 1795, para. 14.

²⁴³ *Ibid.*, para. 19.

²⁴⁴ *Secret Letter to Court*, 21 October 1795, para. 21.

²⁴⁵ *Secret Letter to Court*, 18 August 1795, para. 19.

²⁴⁶ *Secret Letter to Court*, 20 November 1795, para. 2.

²⁴⁷ *Secret Letter to Court*, 31 October 1795, para. 14.

²⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 15.

²⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, paras. 2-4.

²⁵⁰ *The Cambridge History of India*, Vol. V, p. 402. *Secret Letter to Court*, 31 October 1795, para. 9.

²⁵¹ Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. X, p. 274.

likely to subject the Company to the imputation of a breach of faith with the Dutch.²⁵² He wrote to Dundas on 21 November 1795 that the proposed agreement was, "in all circumstances considered, not only ill-timed and dangerous, but illegal *ab initio*, and the execution of it in direct opposition throughout to the statute".²⁵³ Not minding Shore's objections Hobart went ahead with his negotiations and concluded a definitive treaty with the king of Ceylon on 12 February 1796, subject to ratification or rejection by the home authorities within two years.²⁵⁴

The war with the French and the Dutch raised a number of ancillary problems which are referred to in the correspondence. There was first the question of the administration of the conquered territories. The administration of Chandernagore by Birch has been noticed at length. Regarding the law to be administered, he was directed to try the local population in accordance with the Company's law and practice in criminal cases, and the foreigners according to the French law. In civil cases, the existing practice of the settlement was to be followed; but he was instructed "to avoid any determination on property which in the event of Chandernagore being restored to its late possessors might prove a source of future distress to the individuals and even of discussion between the English and French Governments." In all cases of magnitude, or involving questions of doubt or difficulty, he was required to refer his decisions to the Governor General in Council for confirmation before carrying them out.²⁵⁵ Among the other subjects noticed in the correspondence may be mentioned the following: the discharge on parole of Frenchmen with permission to carry on their normal vocation, in cases where the action was considered not contrary to the public interest; the removal of certain leaders of factions who were guilty of violent behaviour;²⁵⁶ and the grant of financial aid to those Frenchmen who were rendered destitute by the war.²⁵⁷

Next, the subject of prize law and prize courts received great attention. At the very commencement of the war, the Fort William Council requested the Court of Directors to send out urgently commissions authorising the Supreme Court at Calcutta to hear and determine prize causes in the same way as was done in the British plantations in America. It also requested the Directors to send the most approved precedents in prize causes for the guidance of the courts in India.²⁵⁸ Further, the Council considered that it had no powers to grant letters of marque and reprisal, but could issue commissions in the name and under the seal of the Company to the commander of any vessel to act offensively against a power at war with Great Britain within the limits to which the Company's authority extended. The Commissions were accordingly issued, taking adequate securities as a safeguard against misuse of the powers so conferred.²⁵⁹ The correspondence reveals a marked uncertainty in the law regarding prize matters. To cite an interesting

²⁵² *Secret Letters to Court*, 18 August 1795, para. 7; and 31 October 1795, paras 5-8.

²⁵³ Furber, *op. cit.*, p. 84.

²⁵⁴ Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. X, p. 275.

²⁵⁵ *Foreign Letter to Court*, 13 August 1793, paras. 11-19.

²⁵⁶ *Foreign Letter to Court*, 12 January 1794, para. 8.

²⁵⁷ *Foreign Letters to Court*, 13 August 1793, para. 2; and 12 January 1794, para. 16.

²⁵⁸ *Political Letter to Court*, 1 August 1793, para. 15.

²⁵⁹ *Political Letter to Court*, 13 August 1793, paras. 105-06.

case, three vessels were taken off the coast of Coromandel at the beginning of the war and sent to Calcutta for being condemned. The matter was referred to the Advocate General and the Standing Counsel of the Government of Bengal, and they were of opinion that as the admiralty jurisdiction of the Supreme Court did not extend beyond the territorial limits of the Company's possessions, the vessels could not be condemned before it. The ships in question having been captured on the high seas, the only proper court to condemn them was the Court of Admiralty in England. To convey them to England for the purpose would have been expensive; their condition also made the adoption of this procedure impracticable. To overcome the legal difficulty, a second seizure by the Company's troops was ordered. But this gave rise to another problem, whether the prize money payable to the captors should be paid to those who participated in the first seizure or in the second seizure. The question was referred to the Court of Directors for consideration.²⁶⁰

Among other questions noticed in the correspondence may be mentioned the following: protection of merchant shipping;²⁶¹ arrangement of convoys and issue of signal codes to ensure safety;²⁶² the arrival of a cartelship and the problem of the exchange of prisoners.²⁶³

General Administrative Problems: The Palegars and the Maintenance of Law and Order

In the anarchy of the eighteenth century which followed the dissolution of the Mughal Empire, local chiefs, generally known as palegars, had seized power and established small chieftainships. They paid a small tribute and owed a nominal allegiance to the ruler, and, for the rest, carried on predatory warfare among themselves. When portions of the Carnatic and the district of Malabar came under British rule, the Company had a difficult task in keeping them under control. In 1782 Lieut. Col. Maxwell led an expedition against the Palegar of Sivagiri (Shevigherry) for having invaded the territories of his neighbour, the Palegar of Settur (Shattoor). Owing to certain extenuating circumstances, the Palegar was left off with a warning; but to prevent further mischief, the fort walls of both Sivagiri and Settur were demolished. Maxwell also enquired into the grievances of the other Tinnevely palegars and brought about a general settlement.²⁶⁴ In 1794 there was another major disturbance in this region. The Raja of Ramnad had certain hereditary claims to the lands held by the Palegar of Shivaganga. Their quarrel took a serious turn, and the former, in defiance of the authority of the Nawab of the Carnatic, invaded the territories of the latter. The Company advised the Raja to refer his claims to his overlord and not take the law into his own hands. But he proved refractory and was in consequence deposed. His

²⁶⁰ *Foreign Letter to Court*, 18 August 1794, paras. 2-5.

²⁶¹ *Political Letter to Court*, 10 March 1794, paras. 19-21.

²⁶² *Secret Letter from Court*, 31 January 1794.

²⁶³ *Political Letter to Court*, 30 December 1794, paras. 15 and 25-29.

²⁶⁴ *Political Letters to Court*, 14 December 1792, para. 29; 29 January 1793, paras. 2-7; and 18 May 1793, para. 7.

sister, however, was allowed to succeed him, and, by a treaty concluded with the Nawab of the Carnatic, the administration of the district was taken over for a time by the Company.²⁶⁵

More serious than the Ramnad affair was the rebellion of Raja Vijayarajaram of Vizianagaram. The Raja was in heavy arrears in the payment of his tribute, and he had also defied the orders issued to him not to employ his half-brother Sitaramaraju in the management of his country. The Madras Government took possession of the zamindari to enforce the demands, but no one came forward to rent the lands for fear of the Raja. To overcome this difficulty Vijayarajaram was directed to leave his zamindari and come to Madras. But he rose in revolt and sought refuge in the hills. He was pursued by the Company's forces and, in the battle that took place on 10 July 1794, killed with many of his followers. Peace, however, was not restored for sometime to come, and we are told in a letter to the Court of 12 May 1795 that some of the hill zamindars were still in arms.²⁶⁶

Some of the chiefs of Malabar also gave trouble. A chieftain of Cartinaad gave protection to certain persons who were wanted by Government, and as a punishment the fort of Baragara in which he had given them refuge was ordered to be resumed.²⁶⁷ The Raja of Cotiote was charged with the illegal execution of three Mapillas and action was ordered to be taken.²⁶⁸

The main object of the Company's policy was to put an end to the habit of the pategars of resorting to arms to settle differences among themselves, and to enforce respect for the law of the land and the authority of the Government. In the case of the Raja of Cotiote referred to above, the Fort William Council observed, "We consider it a point of the first consequence to convince the Rajahs and principal landholders of Malabar that they are equally amenable with every other description of persons to the regular course of the laws, and to the Courts established for the execution of them whose authority must be maintained to the full extent prescribed by the Regulations."²⁶⁹ To reduce the capacity of the pategars for mischief, the Supreme Government directed that "the measure of opening the *pollums* should be invariably adopted whenever the polygars should have been guilty of any offence towards the Government or of any outrage or violence towards each other."²⁷⁰ The pategars were also made to shed their pretensions to sovereignty and take their proper place as subjects. To cite an instance, the Raja of Cherikal invited the Northern Superintendent to attend his coronation ceremony with a present. The latter declined to attend, and the Raja was told also that the celebration was inconsistent with his present situation, and it should not be performed on any future occasion without the assent of the Bombay Government.²⁷¹

²⁶⁵ *Political Letters to Court*, 18 August 1794, paras. 7-8; 30 December 1794, paras. 6-7; 6 March 1795, paras. 2-4; and 21 March 1795, paras. 2-3. Also, Nelson. *A Manual of Madura District* (1868), part IV, p. 154.

²⁶⁶ *Political Letters to Court*, 18 May 1793, paras. 2-7; 28 October 1793, para. 7; 18 August 1794, paras. 2-6; and 12 May 1795, para. 3.

²⁶⁷ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 August 1795, paras. 46-47.

²⁶⁸ *Political Letter to Court*, 31 October 1795, para. 6.

²⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁰ *Political Letters to Court*, 29 January 1793, para. 7; and 12 May 1795, para. 47.

²⁷¹ *Political Letter to Court*, 31 October 1795, para. 5; and 18 August 1795, para. 48.

While desirous of bringing the palegars under effective control, the Company was conscious of the limited rights it had over them. When the Government of Madras complained of the wrongful dismissal of his minister by the Raja of Ramnad and recommended his restoration, the Fort William Council warned Madras that the Company's rights in matters of this type were limited, and that an active interference in the internal administration of the palegar would lead to never ending palegar wars, which were "always unprofitable and very often unjust." The Company's servants were instructed "in the clearest manner, to take no further concern about the polygars than to demand from them their fixed tribute and to prevent their engaging in warfare amongst themselves, or committing any act of contumacy against your Government."²⁷²

The Fort William Council was afraid that in the settlement of boundary disputes and other palegar claims the Company's officers might become corrupt. It wrote on one occasion to the Government of Madras, "we need not describe to you how much the British name has been tarnished, both in Asia and Europe, by some occurrences in India, which has given rise to a belief that a traffic has been carried on of making and unmaking Nabobs by the Company's influence, and we are perfectly convinced that you will be as anxious as ourselves that no such practices shall exist even in miniature within the bounds of your authority." It directed further that disputed claims to property by the members of the palegar families should not be left to the decision of either the Collector of the Palegar *Peshkash* or the Nawab, but should be examined and decided by the Governor in Council.²⁷³

The Organization of Malabar

By the Treaty of Seringapatam Tipu had ceded to the Company all the lands on the Malabar coast between Travancore and the Kawai, and the settlement of the area was a major problem during the period under review. Three Commissioners, Farmer, Page and Dow, all of the Bombay service, were appointed to report on the condition of the province and make proposals regarding its settlement and administration.²⁷⁴ They were later joined by Duncan and Boddam from Bengal,²⁷⁵ and together they constituted the well-known Joint Commission on Malabar. The report of the Commission was submitted on 11 October 1793. In conveying his general approbation and confirming the settlement made by the Commissioners, Shore observed, "Conciliation and firmness should be combined; the prejudices and habits of the people should be consulted as far as practicable under the regulations; and the military should never be employed except in cases of urgency when other means had failed."²⁷⁶

Of the many interesting references to the administrative problems of Malabar may be mentioned the following. Firstly, owing to a lack of accurate knowledge of the prevailing conditions, it was considered unwise to introduce a system of permanent settlement, and consequently settlements were made

²⁷² *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May 1793, paras. 19-21.

²⁷³ *Political Letter to Court*, 14 December 1792, para. 33.

²⁷⁴ *Political Letter to Court*, 3 September 1792, para. 14.

²⁷⁵ *Political Letter to Court*, 14 December 1792, para. 60.

²⁷⁶ *Political Letters to Court*, 18 August 1795, para. 42; and 15 May 1795, para. 13.

for a period of five years only both in northern and southern Malabar.²⁷⁷ Again, on the question of European settlement, the Bombay Government was in favour of encouraging it by grants of lands and other means. The Fort William Council advised a more cautious policy to be pursued. The Europeans in Bengal, it pointed out, were not allowed to acquire more than 50 *bighas* or 16½ acres, just sufficient to erect houses and buildings for industrial purposes, and permission to settle in the interior was granted only after the persons concerned rendered themselves amenable to the Company's courts in civil suits.²⁷⁸ Again, the Bombay Government put forward a proposal for the promotion of the cultivation of indigo and sugar-cane. The Calcutta Council, however, felt that it was a wiser and a safer course to devote attention to the natural products of the province, namely, pepper, vine, cardamom, cassia and nutmeg.²⁷⁹ Again, a complaint was received against the Bibi of Cannanore from the people of the Laccadive Islands that they were suffering from her monopoly of their trade. After a general survey, the islands were thrown open to general trade, subject to payment of the prescribed import duties. Questions relating to tribute and other matters relating to Cannanore were also settled at the same time.²⁸⁰

Trade and Commerce

While the subject of trade and commerce was one which concerned primarily the Public Department there are a few interesting references to it in the Secret Department letters. The Company was greatly agitated by the problem of illicit trade, which had proved a serious threat to the Company's monopoly. The Court of Directors passed certain resolutions on the subject on 3 June 1791, and these were published in India on 3 February 1792.²⁸¹ A gentleman by name Fenwick brought to the notice of the Bengal Government that the commanders and owners of certain ships named by him were carrying on illicit trade under the colours and passes of foreign nations. The Government of Bengal set on foot the necessary enquiries and ordered suitable action to be taken. But Fenwick was dissatisfied with the measures taken by the Government. He accused the Government of connivance and complicity, and charged them with having failed to take effective steps to prevent the escape of the ships he had named. In its Secret Letter to the Court dated 27 April 1792, the Fort William Council explained at length the reasons that had prompted the action it had taken and refuted Fenwick's charges. Defining in brief the policy it had pursued, the council observed, "Our object has been to preserve the respect and influence of Government undiminished and to avoid the risk of involving the Company in extensive doubtful litigations as well as in differences with foreign powers by stopping ships under foreign flags richly freighted and ready to sail at a time of the year when the smallest delay might have occasioned the loss of the season and when ultimate failure at

²⁷⁷ *Political Letters to Court*, 18 August 1794, paras. 16-17; 30 December 1794, paras. 31-39; and 18 August 1795, paras. 43-44.

²⁷⁸ *Political Letter to Court*, 30 December 1794, para. 45.

²⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, paras. 43-44.

²⁸⁰ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 August 1795, paras. 49-52.

²⁸¹ *Secret Letter to Court*, 27 April 1782, para. 13. Also, Seton-Karr: *Selections from the Calcutta Gazette*, Vol. II, p. 58.

law would not only subject the Company to enormous damages but would also have the effect of encouraging instead of checking future adventures in the illicit trade."²⁸²

Next, there was the problem of piracy. There were at this time two groups of pirates who were menacing the Company's trade and that of the free merchants: first, the Malwans, who were the subjects of the Raja of Kolhapur; and next, the Coolies, who inhabited the region of the Gulf of Cambay. In 1792, Abercromby, Governor of Bombay, proposed strong action against the Raja of Kolhapur; and, as the Raja was dependent in some measure on the Poona Government, he wanted that Government to be apprised of the situation in the first instance. The Fort William Council doubted if the Poona Government could do anything in the matter, the Raja having declined its mediation on an earlier occasion. The council also observed that the Raja occupied a high place of honour, if not of power, in the Maratha Confederacy, and his absolute ruin might create alarm and jealousy in the minds of the Marathas.²⁸³ The Government of Bombay, however, was able to conclude a treaty with the Raja on 24 December 1792.²⁸⁴ According to its terms, the Raja agreed to pay an indemnity of Rs. 55,000, and permit the Company to establish factories on the island of Malwan and at Kolhapur.²⁸⁵ But the treaty did not prove to be of any value. Further complaints of Malwan piracy were received,²⁸⁶ but the exigencies of the war with France prevented any action being taken during the period under review.²⁸⁷

Unlike the Malwans, the Coolies were unconnected with, and did not have the support of, any strong country power. The Government of Bombay sent an expedition against them in 1794. The several ports of the Coolies were raided and their boats destroyed.²⁸⁸ About the same time, there was a proposal for the purchase of Cambay from its Nawab, and it was hoped that its possession would be of help in suppressing piracy in this region. But the political implications of its acquisition, however, were such as to deter the Company from proceeding in the matter.²⁸⁹

Of the other interesting references to trade and commerce may be mentioned the following. There was a proposal to establish factories at Onore and Mangalore as provided in the treaties concluded with Haidar Ali and Tipu Sultan in 1770 and 1784 respectively. The Supreme Council saw grave objections to claiming the privilege as of right, and it favoured the conclusion of a new commercial agreement, if Tipu was favourably inclined.²⁹⁰ Again, the supply of saltpetre to foreigners received the particular attention of the Supreme Council both during peace-time and during the war with

²⁸² *Secret Letter to Court*, 27 April 1792, para. 54.

²⁸³ *Political Letter to Court*, 14 December 1792, paras. 167-69.

²⁸⁴ *Political Letter to Court*, 29 January 1793, para. 25.

²⁸⁵ Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. VIII, p. 222.

²⁸⁶ *Political Letters to Court*, 30 December 1794, paras. 48-57; and 4 February 1795, paras. 5-6.

²⁸⁷ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 August 1795, para. 55.

²⁸⁸ *Political Letters to Court*, 17 January 1794, paras. 51-52; and 30 December 1794, paras. 58-59.

²⁸⁹ *Political Letters to Court*, 18 August 1794, paras. 29-40; and 30 December 1794, paras. 62-66.

²⁹⁰ *Political Letter to Court*, 12 May 1785, paras. 9-11.

France.²⁹¹ Again, there are references to the supply of grain to relieve the scarcity prevailing in Europe,²⁹² and to the supply of saltpetre,²⁹³ sugar,²⁹⁴ *pat* and *san*²⁹⁵ and other commodities by way of investment.

Surveys

The rapid growth of the British dominion in India led to important surveys being undertaken. The region in which the late war with Tipu was fought was surveyed by Lt. Emmitt, noted for "the well-known and particular accuracy" of his productions.²⁹⁶ The country traversed by the English army under Cornwallis during the campaigns of 1791 and 1792 and a part of the country between Vellore and the Ghats were surveyed by Lt. Colebrooke. His survey was accompanied by a short treatise upon the climate; topography and history of Mysore and a paper containing certain astronomical observations.²⁹⁷ Other surveys carried out during the period were a survey of the road from Ujjain to Agra *via* Gwalior, and from Ujjain to Bundi by Hunter, the Surgeon attached to the Resident with the Sindia;²⁹⁸ a survey of Gauhati in Assam by Ensign Wood of the Engineers;²⁹⁹ and a survey of the Laccadive Islands. Among those that were planned during the period were a survey of Rampur by Lt. Mowat,³⁰⁰ a survey from Chunar Ghur (Chunar in U.P.) to Kasimkota in the Northern Circars by Ensign Blunt,³⁰¹ and a survey of the region between Ujjain and Delhi by Hunter.³⁰²

²⁹¹ *Foreign Letters to Court*, 8 April 1792, paras. 5-9; and 28 October 1792. *Secret Letter from Court*, 8 March 1794. *Secret Letter to Court*, 30 December 1794, paras. 2-10.

²⁹² *Secret Letter to Court*, 20 November 1795, paras. 12-14.

²⁹³ *Secret Letter from Court*, 12 March 1793.

²⁹⁴ *Secret Letter to Court*, 5 May 1792.

²⁹⁵ *Secret Letter from Court*, 14 October 1793.

²⁹⁶ *Political Letter to Court*, 14 December 1792, para. 118.

²⁹⁷ *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May, 1793, para. 34.

²⁹⁸ *Political Letter to Court*, 13 August 1793, para. 84.

²⁹⁹ *Political Letter to Court*, 30 December 1794, para. 137.

³⁰⁰ *Political Letter to Court*, 4 February 1795, para. 8.

³⁰¹ *Political Letter to Court*, 30 December 1790, paras. 177-78.

³⁰² *Political Letter to Court*, 31 October 1795, para. 45.

LETTERS FROM COURT

FOREIGN LETTER DATED 25 APRIL 1792

Importation of salt by the French under the Convention of 1787—Deportation of Mr. Duane, a Calcutta Editor, for his attacks on the Commandant for French Affairs—Slave trade by certain French ships.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We have received your several letters in the Foreign Department of the 17th November, 1790, 31st January, 12th March, and 17th August, 1791, to which the following is our reply.

*Answer to the letter in the Foreign Department,
dated the 17th November, 1790.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| (1) Transmitting proceedings. | 2. Need no reply. |
| (2 to 16, 18 to 28, and 33) Revolution at Chandernagore. | 3. We omit for the present taking notice of these paragraphs as the subject of them has been laid before His Majesty's Ministers. |
| (17) Concerning the importation of coast salt by the French. | 4. We have read all the papers referred to in your several dispatches in this Department relative to the quantity of salt imported by the French nation into Bengal in the year 1790 above the quantity stipulated for in the 2nd article of the convention between the two nations in 1787. Without entering into an examination of all the arguments that were used by both parties in the course of the discussion upon this subject, we need only observe that those contained in your letter to Colonel De Canaple of the 7th March, 1791, are, in our opinion, a complete justification of your resolution to confiscate all |

salt imported by the French in 1790 above the quantity allowed by the late treaty (amounting to near 5 lacks of maunds), and which has therefore met with our approbation. We likewise approve of the amended regulations adopted on the 20th April for the management of this commerce, which we trust will put an effectual stop to the future importation by the French into Bengal of any quantity of coast salt not authorized by the late convention.

(29 to 32) Loan to the French.

5. You have been already advised that the bills drawn in our favor by the French agents in India for the repayment of the intended loan have been cancelled.

(34) Complaint of the Dutch against the conduct of the Supra Cargo and Captain of the private ship *Surprize*.

6. We approve of the steps taken in consequence of a complaint from the Directors of Chinsurah against the conduct of the Captain and Supra Cargo of the private ship *Surprize*, as advised in this paragraph.

7. Your letter in the Foreign Department of the 31st January, 1791, being connected with subjects that have been already noticed, needs no particular reply.

*Answer to the letter in the Foreign Department,
dated 12th March, 1791.*

(1) Forwarding a duplicate of a former dispatch.

(2-3) Advising that Monsieur De Cossigny being appointed Commandant General in the room of the Comte De Conway, and that Colonel De Canaple had been appointed Commandant for the Affairs of the French in Bengal, and that he has taken up his residence in Calcutta.

8. Need no reply.

(4 to 9) Relative to the importations of salt by the French beyond the quantity prescribed by treaty.

9. Already replied to.

(10-11) Remission of export duties on the cargo of the French ship *Le Bretange*.

10. We have attended to what has passed on this subject, both in this and in your subsequent dispatch of the 17 August last. However advisable it might have appeared to Lord Cornwallis at the time to remit the export duties on the cargo of the French ship *Le Bretange*, yet we do not see the necessity of extending this indulgence to every ship of that nation, whether belonging to the French Company or otherwise. We therefore direct that you continue to collect both the import and export duties on the cargoes belonging to the ships of that nation. We see no reason why the French should be exempt from the payment of the usual imports.

(12 to 15) A French subject rendered amenable to the jurisdiction of the *Dewanny Adawlut*.

11. We have paid due attention to the case stated in these paragraphs, and to your resolution whereby a subject of His Most Christian Majesty residing within the limits of the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Calcutta was made amenable to the *mofussil Dewanny Adawlut*. As this is a case of considerable difficulty, and respects the due performance of a treaty between Great Britain and a foreign nation, it will be submitted to the consideration of His Majesty's Ministers, and we shall take an early opportunity of giving our sentiments upon it.

(16) Concerning the wishes of the Governor General of Batavia that the quantity of opium allowed annually to the Dutch may be increased.

12. As we see no reason why the quantity of opium allowed annually to the Dutch should be increased, we approve of the reply that was given to the application of the Governor General of Batavia for that purpose as advised in the 33rd paragraph of your dispatch in the Foreign Department dated the 17th of August last.

(17) Concerning a claim of the Danish East India Company on the Nabob of Arcot.

13. The subject of this paragraph will be included in our advices to the Government of Madras, a copy of

extraordinary manner. It will be very desirable and proper that on similar occasions parties who may find themselves aggrieved should prosecute the offender for the supposed libel in the Supreme Court of Judicature, and which is the most constitutional mode of proceeding on such occasions. But with regard to the French, and particularly Colonel Canaple, they were residing under the protection of your Government, and under circumstances which merited the most attentive and liberal conduct towards them; you therefore acted very properly in calling upon the Editor to make a suitable apology for the occasion, and which he promised to perform. But we were greatly surprized, in perusing the subsequent address from Colonel Canaple, and which is confirmed by the particulars of the conversation transmitted to you by Mr. Duane, that the original insult had been greatly aggravated; and moreover as we do not perceive from the further proceeding that a suitable apology has been made, we are of opinion that you could not act otherwise than by sending Mr. Duane to Europe.

(18-19) Concerning an officer of a French merchant vessel offering several inhabitants of the Andamans for sale.

19. We have read Captain Light's letter of the 1st of April, 1791, concerning the offer of Monsieur St. Croix, an officer of a French merchant vessel, of some natives, or others, from the Andamans for sale, and approve of your having caused copies of it to be sent to Europe to Colonel Montigny.

(20 to 24) Concerning a French vessel being at Kedgerree with a number of slaves on board, and a sloop expected with an additional number.

20. Your proceedings relative to the slaves on board the French ship at Kedgerree² have met with our entire approbation.

(25) Calling the attention of the Court to the draft of a bill prepared by the Advocate General which was transmitted in 1788.

21. The draft of the bill mentioned in this paragraph is under the consideration of His Majesty's Ministers.

(26) Advising the ill health of Colonel De Canaple and that he had authorized Mr. Michell to transact business for him.

(27-28) Advising the death of Colonel Canaple.

(29) His effects secured.

(30-31) Comptroller of Salt authorized to grant receipts and make payments to Mr. Michell for the salt imported by the French.

(32) Concerning the application of the Dutch for an increase to the quantity of opium annually allotted to them.

(33-34) Concerning an offer of the Dutch of their factories at Chuprah, Singhia and Futwa, and their request that their annual allotment of salt-petre may be delivered to them in Calcutta.

(35 to 39) Relative to the interference of the Danish Chief at Patna with the functions of the Magistrate.

22. Need no reply.

23. Already replied to.

24. We acquiesce in the propriety of the reasons assigned for declining the offer from the Dutch of their factories at Chuprah, Singhia and Futwa, and approve of your having complied with their request for delivering their annual allotment of salt-petre at Calcutta.

25. We have read the papers relative to an interference on the part of the Danish Chief at Patna with the functions of the Magistrate. As it cannot admit of a doubt that the Danes possess no territorial rights in the city of Patna independent of the authority of Government, we approve of the terms in which your letter to the Director and Council at Fredericksnagore of the 8th June last upon that subject is conceived. If a satisfactory reply should not be given to this letter you will report the same to us.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

London,
25th April, 1792.

(Received on the 8th October, 1792,
per King George.)

F. Baring / J. Smith Burgess / John Roberts / Lionel Darell / Nathl. Smith / John Travers / W. Ewer / Wm. Money / Stepn. Williams / Thos. T. Metcalfe / W. Devaynes / Stepn. Lushington / T. Pattle.

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 25 APRIL 1792

Satisfactory conclusion of the negotiations relative to the principality of Janjira, and Malet's integrity in refusing the present of a lakh of rupees by Nana Phadnis—Parliamentary enactment granting special powers to Cornwallis—Effects of the grant of the office of Vakil-i-Mutlaq on Maratha policy—Vazir of Oudh's loan to the Company during the Third Mysore War—Malet's History of the Maratha Empire—Mahadji Sindia and the politics of the Upper Provinces: authorities in India enjoined not to interfere—Impropriety of the Vazir's correspondence with the subjects of Timur Shah.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our last letter in the Political Department was dated the 6th of May, 1791. We shall now reply to such of your letters in this Department as were received in the course of the past season.

*Answer to the letter in the Political Department,
dated the 21st November, 1790.*

(1) Transmitting copy of a former dispatch &c.

(2 to [2]5) Contain a narrative of the military operation.

(26 to 30) Concerning the defective state of the detachment serving with the Nizam.

(31 to 56) Concerning the co-operation of the armies of the Marattas and Nizam Aly.

(57 to 61) Advising of the manner in which Lord Cornwallis had signified his intentions to the Poona *Durbar* of continuing in India till the conclusion of the war and of his determination to take the field in person.

(62 to 64) Concerning the negotiation at Poonah with respect to the principality of Gingerah.

2. Need no reply.

3. This subject will be replied to in our advices to the Government of Madras, copies of which you will receive as usual.

4. Need no reply.

5. We very much approve of the manner in which Lord Cornwallis communicated his intentions to the Poona *Durbar* of continuing in India till the conclusion of the war, and his determination to take the field in person.

6. We are pleased to find by your last Political Dispatch of the 4th August, 1791, that the long protracted

negociation with the Court of Poonah relative to the principality of Gingerah¹ is brought to a conclusion by the acceptance on the part of Balloo Meah of a compensation from the Marattah Government for resigning the same. Sir Charles Malet appears to have arranged this business with his usual ability, and in his refusal of the lac of rupees offered him by the Minister² on executing the instrument has given a becoming proof of his disinterestedness and integrity.

(65 to 72) Enclosing copies of several minutes relative to Lord Cornwallis's determination of proceeding to the Coast.³ His powers and the reinforcement to be sent thither.

7. We have already expressed the sense we entertain of His Lordship's zeal for the service in his determination to proceed to the Coast, and our approbation of the reinforcements that were ordered thither. With respect to the powers delegated to His Lordship upon that occasion, we need only refer you to the Act passed in the last session of Parliament,⁴ entitled "An Act for establishing, and confirming a certain resolution or order of the Governor General in Council of Fort William in Bengal, and all acts done by virtue thereof, and for granting further powers to the said Governor General during his residence on the coasts of Coromandel and Malabar", copies of which were transmitted to you by the ship *Canada*.

(73 to 75) Advising that the Beeby of Cananore had declared for the Company.

8. Your subsequent advices of the 31st January, 1791, contain an account of the Beeby of Cananore⁵ having refused to fulfil her late treaty with the Company, and of the consequent capture of the place by the troops under Major General Abercromby after she had admitted the troops of Tippoo Sultaun into the garrison.

(76) Advising the arrival at Tellicherry of a detachment from Bombay sent to reinforce Lieutenant Colonel Hartley.

(77) Mentions that Tippoo's troops had all left Cannanore, and that the

9. Need no reply.

greatest confusion prevails among them to the southward.

(78) Advising that the Rajah of Cochin had engaged to enter into a treaty with the Company.

(79) Referring to their correspondence with Major Palmer advising that the Maratta army in Jodepore defeated the Rajepoot forces at Murta' in September.

(80) Concerning some indignities suffered by the Resident at Broach from the Maratta Government.

(81) Mentions that the son of the late Nabob of Surat has paid Rs. 20,000 into the Company's treasury at Bombay as the price of his investiture in his father's dignity.

(82 to 86) Concerning the assumption of the revenues of the Nabob of Arcot.

(87-88) Mention that an application from the private creditors of the Nabob of Arcot to be allowed interest on the money paid into the Company's treasury on their account before the commencement of the war.

(89 to 109) Concerning the complaints of Arcot against Mr. Jno. Hollond and his *dubash* of peculation &c.

(110 to 119) Relative to a misunderstanding between the Vizier and Fyze Ulla Khan.

10. We have already signified our approbation of the treaty with the Rajah of Cochin⁶ in our letters to Madras.

11. Needs no reply.

12. We approve of the manner in which application was made to Madajee Scindia on the subject of some indignities suffered by our Resident at Broach from the Maratta Government.

13. Needs no reply.

14. Our sentiments on the measure of assuming the revenues of the Carnatic are contained in our Political Dispatch to the Government of Madras of the 6th May, 1791, a copy of which was transmitted to you as usual.

15. These subjects have likewise been duly adverted to in our letters to the Madras Government.

16. We are pleased to find by your subsequent dispatch of the 31st January, 1791, that the disagreement between His Excellency the Nabob Vizier and Fyze Ulla Khan has been happily terminated by a perfect re-

conciliation. Indeed it will be always in the power of your Government as guarantee to interfere with effect, either on the one hand to keep the Rohilla Chief faithful to the performance of his engagements with the Vizier, or on the other to shelter the former from any acts of oppression on the part of the latter.

(120-121) Mention that the office of *Vakeel ul Mutluck* had been conferred by Shaw Allum to the Peshwa and his successors.

17. If it shall hereafter appear that the office of *Vakeel ul Mutluck*, which has been confirmed in *ultumgah* to the Peshwa, his heirs and successors by Shah Allum, shall occasion any attempt at encroaching on the right inherent in Assoph ul Dowla, as *Vizier* of the Empire, our present connection with the Maratta Government, and with Scindia in particular, will always enable you, if necessary, to interfere with effect to prevent such encroachments; and we trust in the prudence and discretion of your Government that this material service will at all times be performed without exposing us to the risk of a disagreement with any branch of the Maratta Empire.

(122-123) Respecting a quarrel between some of the Vizier's officers and a party of the Company's sepoy.

18. We approve of the manner in which you interfered upon this occasion. As such disagreements must prove of detriment to the public service, we trust that every precaution has been taken to prevent a repetition of them.

(124 to 126) Mention the march of 2 battalions of sepoy from Futty Ghur to Anopsheer to prevent an incursion of the Sieks.

19. We likewise approve of your having ordered on the application of Hyder Beg Khan two battalions of sepoy from Futty Ghur to Anopsheer to guard the Vizier's frontiers against the predatory incursions of the Sieks. Your last dispatch of the 4th August has informed us of your determination in the preceding May to recall this detachment on account of the little probability there was of the Sieks making another incursion into the Doab so late in the season.

(127 to 129) Mention an offer of the Vizier and his Minister of pecuniary assistance in the present war.

20. We desire you will inform the Vizier and his Minister that we deem their offer of assistance at the present crisis as a strong proof of their attachment to the East India Company, and that we shall be always extremely desirous of encreasing the friendship and confirming the connection between our respective Governments by acts of reciprocal kindness. We learn with pleasure, by our subsequent dispatch of the 31st January, 1791, that the loan of 12 lacs of rupees, which was so readily offered to the Company by the Vizier, has not only been paid, but that the current claims upon His Excellency had also been discharged with punctuality. You must take especial care that the conditions of the bond given upon this occasion (a copy of which we received by the *Warren Hastings*) be punctually fulfilled.

(130) Mentions the arrival at Benares of one of the princes of the House of Timur^a and of his intention to depart on receiving rupees 2,070.

21. We observe by your advices of the 31st January that this prince had departed from the promise he made on receiving the *sicca* rupees 2,070 by making his appearance in the neighbourhood of Patna. The orders issued upon that occasion were very proper. You likewise did right in giving him no encouragement to hope for any further support, or assistance, from your government, as advised in the 51st paragraph of your letter of 12th March, 1791.

22. Your short letter in the Political Department of the 20th December, 1790, needs no reply.

*Answer to the letter in the Political Department,
dated 31st January, 1791.*

(1) Transmitting consultations.

23. Needs no reply.

(2-3) Concerning the proportion which the Rajah of Travancore should contribute towards the expences of the war.

24. We shall reply to this subject in our Political Dispatch to the Government of Madras.

(120-121) Mention that the office of *Vakeel ul Mutluck* had been conferred by Shaw Allum to the Peshwa and his successors.

(122-123) Respecting a quarrel between some of the Vizier's officers and a party of the Company's sepoy's.

(124 to 126) Mention the march of 2 battalions of sepoy's from Futty Ghur to Anopsheer to prevent an incursion of the Sieks.

conciliation. Indeed it will be always in the power of your Government as guarantee to interfere with effect; either on the one hand to keep the Rohilla Chief faithful to the performance of his engagements with the Vizier, or on the other to shelter the former from any acts of oppression on the part of the latter.

17. If it shall hereafter appear that the office of *Vakeel ul Mutluck*, which has been confirmed in *ultumgah* to the Peshwa, his heirs and successors by Shah Allum, shall occasion any attempt at encroaching on the right inherent in Assoph ul Dowla, as *Vizier* of the Empire, our present connection with the Maratta Government, and with Scindia in particular, will always enable you, if necessary, to interfere with effect to prevent such encroachments; and we trust in the prudence and discretion of your Government that this material service will at all times be performed without exposing us to the risk of a disagreement with any branch of the Maratta Empire.

18. We approve of the manner in which you interfered upon this occasion. As such disagreements must prove of detriment to the public service, we trust that every precaution has been taken to prevent a repetition of them.

19. We likewise approve of your having ordered on the application of Hyder Beg Khan two battalions of sepoy's from Futty Ghur to Anopsheer to guard the Vizier's frontiers against the predatory incursions of the Sieks. Your last dispatch of the 4th August has informed us of your determination in the preceding May to recall this detachment on account of the little probability there was of the Sieks making another incursion into the Doab so late in the season.

(127 to 129) Mention an offer of the Vizier and his Minister of pecuniary assistance in the present war.

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(130) Mentions the arrival at Benares of one of the princes of the House of Timur^a and of his intention to depart on receiving rupees 2,070.

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22. Your short letter in the Political Department of the 20th December, 1790, needs no reply.

*Answer to the letter in the Political Department,
dated 31st January, 1791.*

(1) Transmitting consultations.

23. Needs no reply.

(2-3) Concerning the proportion which the Rajah of Travancore should contribute towards the expences of the war.

24. We shall reply to this subject in our Political Dispatch to the Government of Madras.

(4-5) Concerning the speculations of the Messrs. Hollonds.

(6 to 22) Advising the occurrences of the war.

(23) Referring to the correspondence of the Residents at Poonah and Hyderabad.

25. This subject has likewise been included in our correspondence with the Madras Government.

26. Need no reply.

27. We have perused with attention the correspondence with the Residents of Poonah and Hyderabad, referred to in their and in your last dispatch of the 4th August, 1791. Although we have no particular instructions to give you at present upon the different subjects of this correspondence, it was certainly right in you to draw our attention thereto. We must observe, however, that we feel perfectly satisfied with the manner in which Sir Charles Malet and Sir John Ken-naway discharge the important duties of their respective stations.

28. It is with much pleasure we acknowledge the information we have received at different times from the perusal of the correspondence of Sir Charles Ware Malet, our Resident at Poonah; and we have been anxiously expecting the History of the Maratta Empire compiled by that gentleman, and said from time to time to be transmitted to you, but which has not been entered on your consultations, excepting only two or three short sketches. We therefore direct that you transmit, without delay, the history above alluded to, so far as you have received it, and that you signify our wish to Sir Charles Ware Malet, that he will, as soon as his other important avocations will admit, bring down the history of the Marattas to as late a period as possible, being convinced from the specimens that the compilation of the work, while it will redound to the honor of Sir C. W. Malet, will afford us an ample and satisfactory fund of information. We should also be happy to receive the political and historical

glossary mentioned in Sir C. W. Malet's letter to you, entered on your Secret Consultations of the 16th July, 1787; and upon this occasion, we cannot but acknowledge the pleasure we have received from a perusal of some similar sketches relative to the Nizam by Sir John Kennaway, and we direct that you communicate our wishes to that gentleman for his completing those sketches in the manner we have before directed with regard to Sir Charles Ware Malet's History of the Marattas. And it would also be highly gratifying to us to receive, if procurable, similar accounts respecting all the other native powers of Hindostan.

(24) Concerning the operations against Darwar.

(25-26) Advising that the discussions at the Court of Poonah respecting the Siddcy of Gingerah will be postponed till the conclusion of the war.

(27) Concerning the offer of the Rajah of Berar for furnishing a body of cavalry.

(28) Advising the death of Mr. Forster, Resident at Nagpore.

(29 to 34) Advising of the operations of the troops belonging to the Nyzam.

(35) Mentions an application from the Nyzam for the further aid of 2 battalions of sepoy with artillery and guns, but the proposal had been discouraged.

(36) Mentions the unsuccessful endeavors of the Nyzam to prevail on the Peshwa to take the field in person.

(37) Mentions the recall of several officers belonging to the detachment serving with the Nizam.

29. Needs no reply.

30. Already replied to.

31. We approve of the manner in which you declined the offer made [to] you by the Rajah of Berar for furnishing a body of cavalry to assist in the war.

32. Need no reply.

33. This subject will be replied to in our letter to Fort St. George.

(38 to 40) Mention that the disagreement between the Vizier and Fyza Alla Khan has been adjusted.

34. Already replied to.

(41 to 46) Advising the incursions of the Seiks into the Vizier's territories and the taking of Colonel Stuart.

35. We approve of the measures that were adopted in consequence of the incursions of the Seiks into the territories of the Nabob of Oude, and of the line that was drawn upon that occasion for confining the troops merely to the defence of the Vizier's territories. We were glad to find by your subsequent dispatch of the 12th March last that these freebooters had retired to their own country without committing any further depredations; and we shall be pleased to hear that your endeavors for procuring the release of Colonel Stuart, as mentioned in that dispatch, have proved successful.

(47-48) Concerning the appearance of one of the princes of the House of Timur in the neighbourhood of Patna.

(49) Advising that the Vizier had completed his loan of 12 lacks to the Company, and that he was otherwise punctual in the discharge of his engagements.

36. Already replied to.

*Answer to the letter in the Political Department,
dated the 12th March, 1791.*

(1) Forwarding consultations.

37. Needs no reply.

(2 to 14) Mention Tippoo's overtures for peace, the progress of the army, &c., &c.

38. More recent intelligence respecting the overtures of Tippoo Sultaun have been received from the Government of Madras upon which we have only to remark that the answers of Lord Cornwallis to Tippoo's letters upon that subject were perfectly agreeable to the late confederate treaties with the Marattas, and Nizam Aly Kahn. The rest of

these paragraphs concerning the progress of the army need no particular reply.

(15 to 17) Complaining of the dilatoriness of the Marattas and the Nizam, and referring to the further correspondence with the Residents at Poonah and Hyderabad.

(18 to 26) Relative to the operations of the Nizam's army and the intended junction of a large body of cavalry with Lord Cornwallis's army.

(27) Mentions a letter having been delivered from His Majesty to the Nizam, with a present of two lustres.

(28) Relative to the protracted siege of Darwar.

(29 to 31) Advising the measures taken by Lord Cornwallis for the safety of Bombay upon the uncertain situation of affairs in Europe.

(32 to 36) Contain further information respecting the operations against Darwar.

(37-38) Intelligence concerning the situation and force of the Maratta army under the command of Hurry Punt.

(39) Further advices respecting the Maratta troops in Tippoo's country.

(40) Mentions that Mr. Malet's endeavors to persuade the Peshwa to take the field in person had not been successful.

(41) No recent advices relative to the forces under General Abercromby.

(42) No intelligence of any consequence has been received from the Government General of Batavia.

39. Advices of a later date from Madras having mentioned the junction of the armies of the Allies, any reply to these paragraphs is unnecessary.

40. Need no reply.

41. We have since heard from Fort St. George and Bombay of the capture of this place.

42. The instructions given by Lord Cornwallis to the Government of Bombay for the security of that place, under an apprehension that the then situation of affairs in Europe might not terminate pacifically, were very proper.

43. Need no reply.

(43) Advising that the Portuguese on the Malabar Coast have taken the fort of Sadosheecoghur in Tippoo's country.

(44-45) Advising the orders that were given in consequence of the uncertain state of affairs between Great Britain and Spain.

(46 to 49) Concerning the incursions of the Sicks in the Vizier's frontiers, and their probable object, and the endeavors that have been used for procuring the release of Lieutenant Colonel Stuart.

(50) Enclosing copy of the bond given to the Vizier for the repayment of the 12 lacks of rupees lent by His Excellency to the Company.

(51) Concerning Jelaul ud Deen Khawjah Zudda.

44. The orders issued at the recommendation of Lord Cornwallis, upon the uncertain state of affairs between Great Britain and Spain, for completing the native corps serving under your Presidency with all convenient expedition were very proper.

45. Already replied to.

*Answer to the letter in the Political Department,
dated the 8th April, 1791.*

(1 to 14) Intelligence respecting the movements of the several armies and detachments &c.

(15) Referring to a letter from Major Palmer concerning the probable views of the Marattas in the Upper Provinces.

46. Need no reply.

47. The perusal of Major Palmer's letter of the 25th March, 1791, referred to in this paragraph has made us perfectly easy respecting the probable views of the Marattas, and of Madajee Scindia, in particular, in the Upper Provinces. And whilst we recommend it to you on the one hand to cultivate and improve the friendship at present subsisting between the Company and that chief, we must in the most earnest manner enjoin you on the other to take no part whatever in the disputes that may arise between the various contending

powers in that quarter, but confine your attention solely to the defence of our own provinces and those under the Government of the Nabob Vizier.

48. Your subsequent dispatch of the 4th of August last has referred us to another letter from Major Palmer, of the 25th June, concerning Scindia's intention of proceeding to his capital of Augcen, and ultimately to Poonah. Mr. Malet, in his letter to Lord Cornwallis of the 15th July, has speculated with great probability on the supposed views of Scindia in this journey. But whatever they may be, it does not occur to us that they are likely to disturb the harmony at present subsisting between the Company and the Marattas. On the contrary, the contentions for power and influence in some of the great members of that state, and their natural jealousy of each other, will prevent that unity of action which could alone excite any apprehensions of that nature.

(16-17) Concerning the representation of Colonel Eyres of inconveniences from so large a body of our troops being stationed at Anopsheer.

49. You will doubtless regulate your conduct from time to time as to the force stationed on the Vizier's northwest frontier as circumstances shall require, and take the necessary measures for preventing their suffering any material inconvenience, or being engaged in any disputes with the Marattas about the means of procuring the necessary forage.

*Answer to the letter in the Political Department,
dated the 4th August, 1791.*

- (1) Forwarding copies of former advices.
- (2) Transmitting proceedings.
- (3 to 15) Detail of military operations.

50. Need no reply.

(16 to 30) Advising their proceedings for equipping the army after Lord Cornwallis had been obliged to relinquish the siege of Seringapatam.

(31) Concerning the measures taken by the Residents at Poonah and Hyderabad towards supplying the wants of either army.

(32) Concerning the claims upon the resources of Bengal to answer the occasions of the war.

(33 to 59) Referring to the correspondence with the Residents at Poonah and Hyderabad.

(60-61) Advising the surrender of the forts of Kopaul, Behaudur Bunder⁹ and Gunjycotah.

51. We entertain a due sense of your zeal for the service in the early measures that were adopted after the battle of Seringapatam for supplying the army with bullocks, and various other necessary articles, to enable it again to take the field, but which, with respect to the bullocks, were rendered unnecessary by the exertions of the Government of Madras, and you have assigned very satisfactory reasons for your having deviated in a certain degree, in the manner of providing these supplies, from the contract system, a subject which will be noticed more at large in another Department.

52. The exertions of the Residents at the respective Courts of Poonah and Hyderabad towards supplying the wants of either army, as contained in the proceedings to which you have referred us, are entitled to our warmest commendation.

53. We have read the letters referred to in this paragraph concerning the claims that have been unavoidably made upon your resources to answer the occasions of the war. But as we have every reason to believe, from the dispatches lately received from Lord Cornwallis, that the war will have a speedy and successful termination, you will then be left at liberty to make such economical arrangements as will restore your finances, enable you to furnish the necessary sum to the provision of the investment, and to discharge the arrears upon your civil and military establishments.

54. Already replied to.

55. Need no reply.

(62) Nizam's *peshcush*.

56. We have read the proceedings referred to in this paragraph relative to the steps you have taken for providing, according to treaty, for the due discharge of the *peshcush* of seven lacs of rupees payable to the Nabob Nizam Aly Khan. We remark that no proposals, in consequence of your advertizement, for effecting this payment were made either at Calcutta, Masulipatam, or Benares. We trust, however, that you will have no difficulty in accomplishing the point through the houses of the Benares bankers, Duarkadoss, or Cashmeery Mull, or by some other means, as it is material that the Nizam should have no just cause to complain of our future want of punctuality in the regular payment of this *peshcush*.

(63) Advising the conclusion of the negotiation with the Poonah Durbar relative to the principality of Gingerah.

57. Already replied to.

(64-65) As to the claim upon the Rajah of Travancore¹⁰ for his contribution towards the expense of the war.

58. This subject will be included in our advices to the Government of Madras.

(66-67) Concerning the capture of an Arab snow.

59. You did right in referring the final adjustment of the dispute respecting the capture of the Arab snow to Lord Cornwallis.

(68) Advising the return of the detachment from Anopsheer.

60. Already replied to.

(69 to 73) Advising of the Rajah of Napaul having attacked the Ulmorah Rajah.

61. We trust that the incursions of the Napaul troops mentioned in these paragraphs will not affect either the Vizier's or the Company's interests, and we rely upon your exertions to prevent the trifling difference said to subsist between the Vizier and the Rajah of Napaul relative to some villages situated near the Bootan hills being productive of any serious or embarrassing consequences.

(74 to 77) Relative to a correspondence that had improperly taken place between the Vizier and the subjects of Timur Shaw.

(78 to 80) Concerning the probable views of the Maratta State in Hindostan and of Scindia in particular.

62. We approve of the manner in which you have interfered to prevent the disagreeable consequences that otherwise might have resulted from the improper correspondence between the Vizier and the subjects of Timur Shaw.¹¹ We rely on the continuance of your vigilance to check in time any measures of the Vizier or his Minister that may have a tendency to disturb in the smallest degree the tranquility of the dominions of Oude.

63. Already replied to.

64. Our answer to your several letters in the Political Department has been necessarily comprized in a short compass on account of most of the principal subjects being replied to in our advices to the Government of Madras, and because the far greater part of those letters consists of a narrative of military operations which need no reply. We much approve, however, of the details you have given us, and you will continue to advise us in the most circumstantial manner of the various occurrences that may arise of a political nature, whether as affecting your own Presidency in particular, or the general government of our India possessions, over which you are invested with the controul.

We are,
Your affectionate friends,

London,
the 25th April, 1792.

(Duplicate received on 8th October 1792, *per King George*.)

F. Baring / J. Smith Burgess / John Roberts / Lionel Darell / Nath. Smith / John Travers / W. Ewer / Wm. Money / Stepn. Williams / Thos. T. Metcalfe / W. Devaynes / Step. Lushington / Thos. Fitzhugh / T. Partle / W. Elphinstone.



Lord Cornwallis receiving the hostage princes

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 19 SEPTEMBER 1792

High appreciation of the army's services in the Third Mysore War.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. It is impossible for us sufficiently to express the pleasure and satisfaction we felt on receiving intelligence of the consequences that followed the splendid and decisive victory obtained by Lord Cornwallis over the army of Tippoo Sultaun before Seringapatam on the night of the 6th February last. His Lordship's great and noble exertions in the prosecution of the war can be equalled only by the wisdom which dictated the precise period for the cessation of hostilities, and by the mode in which the terms of the pacification have been adjusted. We trust that the moderation which has been displayed on the present occasion will make a suitable and lasting impression on the minds of all the princes in India, and we even flatter ourselves that Tippoo Sultaun himself, hitherto the formidable and restless enemy of the British interests in India, may be induced from the transactions of the war, and the arrangements of the peace, to pursue a line of conduct more consonant to his true interest, and that in future we may experience in him a conversion from a bitter enemy to an useful ally. Without entering further into the detailed consideration of the advantages that will result from the late Definitive Treaty by the valuable territory we have acquired, and the strength which has been added to our frontier and that of our Allies, or of the brilliant achievements that preceded it, we request Lord Cornwallis to accept of our unanimous thanks for the very great and highly important services he has thus rendered to the East India Company.

2. At the same time, we desire it may be signified to the officers and men who shared in the glories of the war that we entertain a due sense of their courage and perseverance during the whole course of the arduous operations in which they have been engaged, and in a particular manner we desire it to be notified to them how much satisfaction we have derived from their strict attention to good order and military discipline. And as a testimony of our sentiments, we have agreed not only to ratify and confirm the gratuity which has been allotted to them by His Lordship out of the money received from Tippoo Sultaun, but that they shall be presented with six months' *batta* in addition thereto as a manifestation of the sense we entertain of their past services.

3. Although Major General Abercrombie, from his situation of not receiving *batta*, will not be included in the distribution of this additional gratuity given by us, we feel the less regret in this respect as by the appoint-

ment we have conferred on him we mark our approbation of his past, and confidence in his future, services.

We are,
Your affectionate friends,

John Travers / Paul Lemesurier / T.
Pattle / John Hunter / Step. Lushing-
ton / Wm. Money / Jn. Townson / F.
Baring / J. Smith Burgess / John
Roberts / Hugh Inglis / Thos. Cheap /
W. Ewer / W. Bensley.

London,
the 19th September, 1792.

(Duplicate received on 10th March,
1793, *per Swallow*.)

4

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 25 JUNE 1793

The Company desired peace, not extension of territory, but no Maratha claims based on the title of Vakil-i-Mutlaq to be tolerated—Principles of the proposed Treaty of Guarantee with the Marathas and the Nizam approved—No interference if a civil war broke out in Hyderabad—Misconduct of Sindia's vakils at Benares and Broach not to be tolerated—Need to obtain prompt payment of Oudh subsidy—Sindia to be approached for the recovery of Perroti's debts.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

OUR Governor General in Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our last letter to you in this Department was dated the 19th September, 1792.
2. We have received your letter in this Department under date of the 3rd September, 1792.
3. We have received your letter in this Department dated the 14th October, 1792.
4. By the present opportunity we shall reply to your several letters in the Political Department which have been received since the date of our last dispatch in that Department of the 25th of April, 1792.

*Answer to the letter in the Political Department,
dated the 1st December, 1791.*

(1) Acknowledging the receipt of
the Court's advices of 6th May, 1791.

(2 to 22) In answer to those advices.

(23) Referring to copies of their last letters.

(24) Mentions that the detail of occurrences will be arranged as usual.

(25 to 38) Contain an account of military operations in the late war.

(39) Mentions that Lord Cornwallis has expressed his sense of the exertions of the Bengal Government in providing supplies for the army.

(40) Mentions that the contribution of the Rajah of Travencore for his proportion of the expences of the war has been settled at 10 lacks of rupees per annum.

(41 to 47) Mentions that the Nizam had deputed his son and his Minister to assist at the congress to be held for the purpose of arranging the terms of peace, and that Lord Cornwallis had determined they should be accompanied by Sir John Kennaway.

(48 to 58) Advising further military operations &c.

(59—60) Concerning the repugnance of the Minister at Poonah to the appointment of a delegate on the part of the Peshwa to assist at the proposed congress; but that at length full powers were given to Hurry Punt Furkia.

(61 to 65) Relative to the intention of the Poonah Minister of leading the Peshwa into the field with a view to facilitate pacific negotiations; and to the probable ground of his relinquishing that intention.

(66—67) Advising the escape of Mr. Drake and four other Europeans from Chittledroog.

(68 to 73) Concerning the apprehensions of the Poonah *Durbar* from the approach of Mirza Ismael Beg until he had retired with his army from the northern boundary of Guzerat.

5. Need no reply.

6. We are sensible with His Lordship of the exertions made by your Government in providing supplies for the army during the late war.

7. This subject, as you will have observed, has been already noticed in our letters to the Government of Madras.

(74—75) Mention the manner in which Baloo Meah conducted himself previous to his departure from Poonah and his request, which had been referred to Lord Cornwallis, that the Resident's *vackeel* might be permitted to accept from him a village in *jaghire*.

(76) Mentions that Mirza Jungley, one of the sons of the late Soujah Dowlah, had made his appearance at Poonah, and that he received a small sum of money from Sir Charles Malet.

(77) Recommending that a model of a first rate ship of war may be sent out in order to be presented to the Peshwa.

(78 to 82) Advising the measures taken for supplying General Abercromby's army &c.

(83) Advising further proceedings concerning the *Arab* snow captured on the Malabar Coast by Captain Byron of His Majesty's ship *Phœnix*.

(84) Mentions an application in behalf of the *Raunee* of Cannanore for the release of one of her vessels detained at Calcutta, and that the application had been anticipated.

(85) Mentions that the mother of Ragojee Boosla has declared her intention of proceeding on a pilgrimage.

8. Need no reply.

9. Agreeably to your recommendation we shall procure a model of a first rate ship of war, and send it to Bombay to be presented to the Peshwa.

10. Need no reply.

11. From a perusal of the papers referred to in this and in the 25th paragraph of your subsequent dispatch in this Department of the 25th January, 1792, no doubt, we think, can remain respecting the legality of the capture of the *Arab* snow on the Malabar Coast by Captain Byron of His Majesty's ship *Phœnix*. You will advise us of the final decision in this matter.

12. Needs no reply.

13. Upon receiving notice of the intention of the mother of Ragojee Boosla, the Rajah of Berar, to proceed on a pilgrimage to Benares &c., you acted very properly in giving orders that she and her attendants should be exempted from the payment of the usual duties on such occasions, and that the necessary attentions should be shewn to her at the different stages of her journey. We likewise approve

(86 to 94) Madajee Scindia, his probable political views &c.

of the exemptions from duties on the occasions mentioned in the 27th and 28th paragraphs of your Political Dispatch of the 25th January, 1792.

14. The papers referred to in these paragraphs, and in your subsequent letters in the Political Department of the 8th April and 3rd September last, relative to the probable views of Madajee Scindia in his late journey to Poonah, have been duly attended to. What he might originally have proposed to himself by the exertion of his influence at that *Durbar* pending the negotiation for a general peace between Tippoo Sultaun and the three confederate powers is certainly at this period very immaterial to enquire. Nor does it appear to us that the late formal investiture of the Peshwah, by Scindia, of the office of *Vackeel ul Mutluck*, under the supposed authority of the deposed Mogul, in which Scindia is to act as *Naib*, can be attended with any disagreeable consequences to us or to our Allies, either immediately or at a more distant period. If either Scindia individually, or any other member of the Marratta Empire who may hereafter gain an ascendancy in the north, or the Marratta State at large, should be induced, at any time, to found any claim, in consequence of this assumption of office, that may be prejudicial to the British interests, you cannot be furnished with a better line for your guidance than is so clearly and explicitly laid down in the instructions from the Marquis Cornwallis to Major Palmer, our Resident with Madajee Scindia, dated the 9th October, 1791, and recited in your last mentioned dispatch of the 3rd September, 1792.

15. Considering that Hurry Punt Furkia has been represented as the leader of the party opposing the interest of Madajee Scindia at the Court of Poonah, and as the supporter

of Tookajee Holkar and Ali Bahadur, his rivals and principal opponents in Hindostan, we are not surprised at the proposals made by him to Lord Cornwallis relative to Scindia before the separation of the armies referred to in the 22nd paragraph of your before-mentioned dispatch. His Lordship's answer upon that occasion was, in our opinion, extremely judicious.

16. But viewing Nanna Furncize as the friend and confidant of Scindia, and considering also that the extension of the power of the Poonah Government in consequence of the late treaty of peace, if not obnoxious, cannot be agreeable to the great Marhatta branches of it, and conceiving further that Scindia, by his efforts to obtain a permanent and exclusive establishment in the Upper Provinces, must have rendered himself an object of general jealousy, we can have no apprehensions that the present tranquillity of our possessions is likely to be disturbed by any exertions in the support of such discordant interests. We are confirmed in this sentiment by the contents of a letter to Sir Francis Baring, Bart., our late Chairman, from Sir Charles Malet, dated at Poonah the 16th of October last, stating the particular points of Scindia's negotiations at that Court, the probability of their not being speedily adjusted, and that in the meantime Tookajee Holkar was pursuing the most vigorous measures for lessening his influence in the Northern Provinces.

17. But although from this short view of the present situation of Marhatta politics, no event inimical to the interests of the Company is likely to happen, yet it is necessary that the most vigilant attention be paid to their future negotiations and operations. If, which is not improbable, the vigorous prosecution and the glorious ter-

mination of the late war have excited a jealousy of the British power and influence, the object of it, namely to protect our ally,¹ must have left strong impressions of its justice. The former, we trust, will be effaced by the latter; more especially as you will take every opportunity of evincing, both by your declarations and by your actions, that any further extension of dominion is not the object of the Company, and that it is our most earnest wish to cultivate and improve the good understanding which so happily subsists between us and the Marrattas, and to observe the most minute attention to the obligations of existing treaties. At the same time we wish every power in India to be fully persuaded that we will vigorously defend our present possessions, and those of our Allies, and resist in the most effectual manner every attempt to disturb their tranquility.

(95) Mentions a letter having been forwarded to Madajee Scindia from the Nabob of Arcot in acknowledgement of some attentions paid by that chief to some persons employed by His Highness in the repairs of Mahomedan temples &c. in the city of Ajmere.

(96 to 105) Contain some intelligence from the Upper Provinces.

(106) Advising the release of Lieutenant Colonel Stuart from his confinement with the Seiks.

(107) Concerning the various applications from the Marrattas &c. to the Resident at Benares.

18. Needs no reply.

19. The intelligence in these paragraphs relative to the Upper Provinces, though necessary to be recited for our information, does not seem to require any particular instructions from us. You will, however, keep a watchful eye upon the motions of the several contending parties so far as it may be necessary to enable you to provide for the defence of the Vizier's dominions, and the territories of the Company.

20. Needs no reply.

21. For the reasons stated in this paragraph, we approve of your determination that all foreign applications

(108) Referring to their proceedings for the particulars of a breach between the Begum Kullock Sultaun and her son Mirza Khurreem Bukht.

from the Marrattas or others to the Resident at Benares should be conveyed to him only by the authority of Government, or through the channel of the foreign Residents.

22. We have read the letter of the 4th of August, 1791, from the Resident at Benares on the subject of a breach between the Begum Kullock Sultaun and her son Mirza Khurreem Bukht,² and approve of Mr. Duncan's conduct upon that occasion.

*Answer to the letter in the Political Department,
dated the 25th January, 1792.*

(1) Forwarding proceedings.

(2 to 12) Contain an account of military operations.

(13) Transmitting copy of a narrative delivered by Mr. Drake, formerly Midshipman of the *Hannibal*, and other prisoners taken by Tippoo, and who had made their escape.

(14) Referring to a letter from Sir John Kennaway to Lieutenant Stuart.

(15) Referring to a letter from Captain Read for a particular account of the capture of the garrison of Gurrumcondah.

(16 to 19) Concerning the delays of the march of the Nizam's son and Minister to the southward &c.

(20—21) Of the tardiness of the Marratta army under Purseram Bhow.

(22) Referring to letters from the Resident at Poonah.

(23) Nizam's *peshcush*.

23. Need no reply.

24. Your late advices by the *Ganges* contain no fresh information with respect to the *peshcush* due to the Nizam for the Northern Circars. Those from Madras, however, by the same conveyance, have stated that the sum due on that account amounted in July last to rupées 6,29,500, that four lacks in part payment had been tendered by them in August, but

refused at that time by the *soucars*, and that in consequence thereof you had come to a determination to take upon yourselves the future payment of the current *peshcush* through a Benares *soucar*, and that the before-mentioned balance was to be provided for by a payment from the Madras treasury. But we had entertained a reasonable hope that the current *peshcush* would be provided for out of the increasing resources of that Government.

(24) Concerning an engagement off Mangalore between His Majesty's ship *Phoenix* and a French frigate.

25. Needs no reply.

(25) Relates to the capture of an Arab vessel by the *Phoenix* on the Malabar coast.

26. Already replied to.

(26) Prosecution of a claim on some inhabitants of Benares by Madajee Scindia in the *Adawlut* there.

27. Your dispatch in the Political Department of the 3rd September, 1792, has acquainted us that in the prosecution of this suit, Scindia's *vakeels*, and others who call themselves his dependants, had on several occasions behaved with a degree of indecency and insolence towards the Resident and Court of *Adawlut* at Benares which no well regulated Government could suffer, and that a number of other Marrattas had also within the last two years been guilty of many improprieties at Benares. We very much approve of the instructions that were given by Lord Cornwallis to Major Palmer upon this occasion, as contained in the 39th paragraph of your last mentioned dispatch, and of your declaration that all acts of resistance to our established laws, and insults to the officers of our Government, should, without respect to persons, in future, be severely punished. We trust with you that Scindia will on his part give such instructions to his servants and dependants as will effectually restrain them from affording any further grounds of complaint.

(26) Relative to the probable views of Scindia &c.

(27 to 33) Relative to the treaty concluded by Lord Cornwallis with the Nabob of Arcot &c.

(34 to 37) Concerning the improper behaviour of Scindia's *Aumil* to the Company's Resident at Broach.

(38 to 41) Concerning the behaviour of Scindia's *rakeels* and other Marrattas at Benares.

(42) Relative to the protection given by the Zemindars of Novagadalah and Banapore, the subjects of the Rajah of Berar, to the disaffected zemindars.

(43) Advising the death of Hyder Beg Khan, and of the appointment of Hussein Reza Khan to be officiant Minister, and of Rajah Tickait Roy to the head of the finances.

to hear that Nana Furnaveize, the Poonah Minister, has shewn himself solicitous to preserve against all opposition the friendship between the Company's and the Peshwa's Governments.

46. Already replied to.

47. The subjects mentioned in these paragraphs are included in our answer to the letters in the Political Department from the Government of Madras, to which we refer you.

48. We very much approve of the terms of Lord Cornwallis's remonstrances to Madajee Scindia concerning the late insulting conduct of his *Aumil* at Broach towards our Resident and factory there; as Scindia has declared his positive disapproval of the conduct of his *Aumil*, we expect soon to hear that in consequence of the spirit and firmness shewn by His Lordship in his representations upon the subject, both the Peshwa and Scindia have made every reparation in their power for the injuries that have been sustained.

49. Already replied to.

50. We trust with you that the representation made to the Rajah of Nagpore by Lord Cornwallis upon this subject will have rendered any coercive measures unnecessary.

51. From the representation which has been made to us by Lord Cornwallis of the principles of Hussein Reza Khan, appointed to the officiant administration of the Vizier's affairs in the room of the late Hyder Beg Khan, and of his disposition to promote cordiality between his master and the Company, we trust that the Vizier's subsidy will be discharged with more regularity than appears

from the representations of Mr. Ives to have been the case lately, for we are sorry to observe, by an account current dated the first of August last, that the arrears of subsidy amounted upwards of seven lacks of rupees. As this subsidy is destined to the payment of the troops stationed at Futtyghur and Cawnpore you cannot be too urgent with the Vizier and his Ministers for the discharge of the arrears, and that the current subsidy may be paid with the same regularity as was experienced till the latter months of the time of Hyder Beg, so that each monthly *kist* may be completely liquidated by the 15th of the succeeding month as formerly; otherwise the payment of the forces stationed for the defence of the Vizier's territories must inevitably fall in arrear and the peace and safety of those territories be consequently less secure than if the troops had no reason to complain of want of means for their own subsistence.

52. In the 32 paragraph of our letter in the Public Department of the 20th August, 1788, we directed you to send us a copy of the correspondence deposited in the Resident's office at Lucknow, and Benares, since the 1st January, 1774. In your answer to this paragraph of the 10th March, 1789, you gave us reason to expect this correspondence by one of the first ships of the then ensuing season. But hitherto that of Benares only has been transmitted to us. We therefore repeat our former directions upon this subject, and shall expect a complete copy of the Oude correspondence from 1778 to 1786, inclusive, by the first sea conveyance after the receipt of this dispatch.

53. We have received a letter from Mr. Geo. Perrott, formerly of our civil service at Bombay, a copy whereof is enclosed, stating that there were various sums of money due to him from the inhabitants of Broach and the neighbouring *pergunnahs* at the time of their being ceded to Madajee Scindia, but that he has not been able hitherto to recover a very considerable part thereof notwithstanding his constant endeavours by his agents for that purpose, and soliciting our interference in his behalf.

54. By the 7th article of the agreement between the Company and Madajee Scindia in 1785, effectual provision is made for the discharge of the debts due to individuals at Broach and its dependencies. We therefore direct that the Resident with Madajee Scindia be instructed to make representation to that chief on the general subject of debts due to individuals, and with respect to what appears to be due to Mr. Perrott in particular, amounting to above rupees 1,18,000, that measures may be adopted for liquidating the same.

[55] You will of course report your proceedings herein to us, and the answer that Madajee Scindia shall give to your representations.

We are,
Your affectionate friends,

London,
the 25th June, 1793.

(Received on 19th November, 1793,
per Deptford.)

D. Scott / Thos. Parry / Thos. Fitz-
hugh / John Travers / Jn. Townson /
Simon Fraser / Stepn. Williams / R.
Thornton / John Roberts / W. Devay-
nes / Thos. Cheap / T. Pattle / W.
Bensley / J. Smith Burgess / W. Ewer /
Jacob Bosanquet.

ENCLOSURE

(*Vide para 53*)

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the United Company
of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Gentlemen,

1. It is with great concern I find myself under the necessity of troubling you with my particular concerns, but after a series of unsuccessful endeavours in India I am at last compelled to solicit your assistance.

2. In the year 1759, I had the honor to enter into your civil service on the Bombay establishment, and during twenty two years' service discharged my duty to the full satisfaction of those Boards of which I..... member and with the approbation of your Government of Bombay.....

3. In the year.....of a very near relation Mr. Baron.....obliged to return to England and.....advantage a long course of service enter.....to the higher situations. At this time.....Broach establishment where a Resident.....naturally engaged me in large and.....subjects of that and the adjoining purg.....a short notice, to pay in full the several.....consequently upon my quitting in Dec.....leaving behind me several.....make,.....management of which Mr.....at Broach readily undertook, for which.....endeavours, I am greatly indebted; by [but], Gentlemen, most unfortunately for me, and most unexpectedly, the city of Broach with all its depend.....was within a few months after my departure ceded to Mahajee Scindia, whose *Aumildars*, uncertain as to their continuance and jealous of inter....., raised every possible difficulty to oppose recovery of outstanding debts, and in this they obstinately persevered notwithstanding the protection provided for recovery of debts due to the Company's subjects in the 7th article of the treaty of cession. When Mahajee Scindia took possession of Broach Mr. Cockran was appointed Resident, and notwithstanding the stipulated security, aided by great application on his

part, the recoveries made in [the] course of so many years have been only rupees 12,821-1-42 on an amount of rupees 120,935-0-61-0.

4. In order, Gentlemen, to avoid troubling you with a circumstantial detail of transaction.....so long a period, I beg leave to enunciate the.....to which you can make reference, which will.....and propriety of this application as supported by.....by orders from the Supreme Government of.....given in consequence by Mahajee Scindia himself.

.....Committee of Bombay dated the 8th November, 1784, to the.....

.....same date to Lieutenant James Anderson, Resident with Scindia.

.....General and Council to Lieutenant James Anderson, dated.....December 1784.

.....ndia to Gopal Row Malhar at Broach, received at Bombay.....bry, 1785.

.....Resident at Broach to [the] Chief and Council of.....June, 1785.

.....Board by Mr.....under the 30th August.....

Letter from the President and Council of Bombay dated the 9th September, 1785, to the Chief and Council of Surat.

Article the 7th of the treaty entered into by the Governor General &c. with Mahajee Scindia.

To these recorded proofs, many of a private nature might be added, all which will fully support the opinion declared by Mr. Resident Cockran, that to secure payment of the sums due to me Mahajee Scindia should be prevailed upon either to treat them in the manner he did with respect to the private buildings at Broach or grant a positive assignment upon the revenue therefore (sic).

To pretensions so fairly founded I hope I may be allowed to solicit effectual assistance from your Honorable Court, and I beg leave to assure you, Gentlemen, that I could have wished to have avoided troubling you on the occasion, in pursuit of which intention I laboured at all possible means of recovery by private agency at Broach under expensive establishments and by regular applications to the Government of Bombay and the Supreme Government of Bengal, and this I have persevered in for a course of seven years which has at length made.....that nothing less than a.....interference of your Honorable Court can restore property that has been solely endangered by that circumstance of public expediency—the cession of Broach and its territory.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient and most
humble servant,

George Perrott.

London,
21st February, 1793.

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 5 JUNE 1795

Policy towards Assam and Nepal commended: hopes of brisk trade with Nepal and Tibet—Nawab of Surat's refusal to receive sanad of investiture from the Mughal Emperor: absolute worthlessness of such sanads—The Company not to tolerate the imposition of chauch upon its territories or support its levy on others—Court's concern over the continued maladministration of Oudh—Bombay Government censured for its conduct in the case of Dady Nusserwanji, and with regard to the Maratha Government's request for a temporary suspension of duties on grain.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

OUR Governor General in Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our last dispatch in the Political Department was dated the 25th June, 1793. We shall now reply in the usual manner to your several letters of the following dates, *vizt.*

14th October,
14th December, } 1792.

29th January,
7th March,
18th May, and
1st August, } 1793.

*Answer to letter in the Political Department,
dated the 14th October, 1792.*

(1) Acknowledging receipt of Court's orders of 25th April, 1792, which will be replied to at a future opportunity.

2. Needs no reply.

(2 to 13) Dispute between the Rajah of Assam and the Rajah of Deringh, and relative to the application of the Rajah of Napaul for troops to defend him against the Rajah of Lassa.

3. Although we wish you not to depart from the general line of policy that has been drawn for your guidance for avoiding any interference in the disputes with the country powers, we nevertheless think, under the circumstances that have been stated, that you were justified in the part you have

taken in the disagreement between the Rajah of Assam and the Rajah of Deringh. The papers on this subject, referred to in this and in your subsequent dispatches, have been perused, and we have every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of Captain Welsh deputed to Assam in the execution of his mission. From what is stated in your Political Dispatch of the 17th January, 1794, respecting the Rajah of Deringh having returned to his allegiance, we had entertained hopes that the tranquility of that country would have been speedily restored, and that the commercial arrangement proposed by Captain Welsh, and agreed to by the Rajah, would have been carried into execution. But we are sorry to find by your subsequent dispatch of the 18th August last that the detachment commanded by that officer was returned within the Company's districts without having effected the purposes of its march, and that it was not improbable from the distracted state of his country that the Rajah might be impelled to seek refuge for himself and his immediate dependants within the Company's provinces, and which you had very properly ordered the Commissioner of Cooch Bahar to afford him.

4. We have likewise perused the papers relative to the dispute between the Rajahs of Napaul and Lassa, and very much commend the caution you observed upon that occasion in order to avoid giving any just cause of complaint to the Chinese Government. It were to be wished that the jealousy of the Napaulers had not prevented the longer continuance of Captain Kirkpatrick in that country. We have great satisfaction, however, in being informed by Sir John Shore, in his letter of the 10th November, 1793, that Captain Kirkpatrick's visit to the

Court of Napaul has conducted extremely to remove the shyness which till lately marked the deportment of the Napaul Government in its occasional communications with ours, and we shall rely on the Governor General's assurances, notwithstanding the obstacles pointed out in his subsequent dispatch of the 21st August last, that he will be watchful to improve every opportunity that may offer for confirming this favorable disposition, and for opening by that means new channels for the British staples to the extensive regions of Thibet. From the well known abilities of Captain Kirkpatrick we are persuaded that his expected memoir concerning that country, referred to in the before-mentioned dispatch from the Governor General, will afford us great satisfaction. We ought certainly to have received a copy of this memoir either by the *Sugar Cane* or the *Nancy*, especially as the packet by the former contained a copy addressed to the Marquis Cornwallis.

5. It is here necessary to observe that having attentively perused your correspondence with the Resident at Benares during the negotiation for establishing a commercial agreement with the Rajah of Napaul, referred to in the Revenue Department, we approve of the manner in which that business was conducted, and of the treaty of commerce that has been concluded in consequence of that negotiation. We likewise approve of the *jaghire* of rupees 2,573 per annum to Giyrye Missre¹ on account of his assistance in forwarding the negotiation.

(14) Transmitting copy of Lord Cornwallis's correspondence with the country powers during His Lordship's absence from Bengal concerning the war.

6. Needs no reply.

*Answer to the letter in the Political Department,
dated the 14th December, 1792.*

(1) Enclosing duplicate of the last dispatch.

(2 to 23) In answer to the Court's Political Dispatch of 25th April, 1792.

(24) Nizam's *peshcush*.

7. Need no reply.

8. For the reasons assigned in Lord Cornwallis's minute of the 13th of August, 1792, we approve of your determination for providing in future for the regular discharge at the prescribed period of the *peshcush* to the Nizam for the Northern Circars through your own Government. But as this must still be considered as a charge on the Presidency of Madras, we agree in the propriety of the directions that have been given to that Government for including it in their future statements and for giving you credit for its amount upon their general books as a supply from your Government. We likewise approve of the provision that has been made for the discharge of arrears of *peshcush*, agreeably to the orders referred to in the 61st paragraph of your Political Dispatch of the 18th May, 1793, and we further approve of the directions which were given upon this subject to the Government of Madras as mentioned in the 16th paragraph of your subsequent letter of the 31st May, 1794.

(25 to 29) Answer to the Court's Political Dispatch of 25th April, 1792, concluded.

9. Need no reply.

(30 to 32) Referring to the correspondence with Madras on the subject of the Shevegherry expedition &c.

(33-34) Relative to the conduct to be observed to the poligars in general.

(35-36) Relative to the requisition of the Nabob of Arcot for an armed force from the poligars.

(37) Relative to the form of the Nabob's *perwannahs* to his tributaries.

10. These subjects are included in our advices to the Madras Government.

(38) Referring to a report of Messrs. Moubray and Woolf on the state of the Nabob's accounts with the Company.

(39) Referring to the consultations for letters from the Nabob and his eldest son since the dispatch of the *Ganges*.

(40) Referring to letters to and from Tippoo Sultaun.

(41-42) Giving an account received from Madras of an incursion of some poligars into the Daraporam District.

(43) Mentions that the *vackeels* of Tippoo Sultaun had stated to the Madras Government some information relative to the misconduct of the Talookdar of Ducherycotah.

(44) Concerning the improper conduct of certain poligars.

(45) Referring to intelligence received at different times at Fort St. George from the Mysore country.

(46 to 52) Tanjore.

(53 to 56) Concerning the treaty between the Nabob of Arcot and the Dutch relative to the pearl and *chank* fisheries of Tutocorin.

(57) Relative to requiring from the Rajah of Travencore a proportion of his revenues for the military expences.

(58-59) Relative to the three talooks claimed by the Rajah of Travencore, but considered by Tippoo at the late treaty of peace as belonging to the Rajah of Cochin.

(60-61) Mention the appointment of Messrs. Duncan and Boddam to be Commissioners to the Malabar Coast.

(62) Referring to letters from Mr. Farmer to Major Dow.

11. As you have declared your intention of addressing us fully on this subject we have no directions at present to give you relative thereto.

12. Need no reply.

13. These subjects are included in our advices to the Government of Madras.

14. We approve of the proposal on the subject of the disputed talooks as mentioned in these paragraphs.

15. We approve of the appointment of Messrs. Duncan and Boddam for the purposes that have been mentioned. Our opinion and directions on the proceedings of the Commissioners on the subject of the ceded districts on the Malabar Coast, so far as they had then been reported to us, are contained in our Political Dispatch to Government of Bombay of the.

(63) Referring to the correspondence between the Governor of the French factory at Mahé and the Chief of Tellicherry and relative to a district near Mahé claimed by the French.

(64) Mentions that the Bombay Commissioners have been instructed to investigate a claim of the Danes to the factory at Calicut, and the ground on which it stands.

(65) Mentions a point of naval etiquette between one of our ships of war and a Portuguese frigate having been referred to the Commodore.

(66) Relative to the re-establishment of the Company's factory at Onore, and of the *banksauls* at Mirjee, Candipore and Mangalore.

(67 to 70) Relative to the debt due to the Company from the Malwan Rajah, and respecting his piratical conduct.

(71 to 74) Relative to the delay of Madajee Scindia in forwarding the King's *sunmuds* of investiture to the Nabob of Surat.

of which we have already transmitted you a copy as usual.

16. The late capture of all the French settlements in the East Indies has rendered any further discussion on these subjects unnecessary.

17. Need no reply.

18. We approve of your having directed that no steps should be taken towards the re-establishment of the factory and *banksauls* mentioned in this paragraph until it can be known how far Tippoo conceives them to extend.

19. Your subsequent dispatch of the 18th May, 1793, has referred us to the complaints of the principal merchants of Calcutta, of the depredations committed on their trade by the pirates on the Malabar Coast, in which the Malwan Rajah appears to have been a principal actor. We have already given our sentiments on the conduct of the acting Government of Bombay upon this subject in our Political Dispatch to that Presidency, a copy of which has been transmitted to you. We trust that the most effectual measures have long since been carried into execution, as well for putting a stop to similar acts of atrociousness as for obtaining a compensation for the losses the merchants have sustained thereby.

20. By what motives the late Madajee Scindia was actuated in so long delaying to forward the King's *sunmud* of investiture to the Nabob of Surat, whether for the purpose of procuring

an increase of *nuzzerana* on his succession to the *musnud*, or with a view of connecting it with, other rights or claims of the Mogul Empire in consequence of any system that may have been adopted for the administration of the office of *Vackeel-ul-Mutlock*, which by the 5th paragraph of your dispatch of the 30th November, 1793, is likely to be brought under discussion, it is certainly at this time immaterial to enquire. The absolute refusal of the Nabob of Surat to receive those *sunnuds* when they were at length presented to him, and the recent instance of your having declined to solicit the King's confirmation of your appointment of Naser-ul-Moolk to the Nabobship of Bengal, must convince the several members of the Marratta State in how little estimation any pretensions founded on that office will be hereafter considered. Indeed we think it would be highly advisable to embrace the first proper opportunity, agreeably to the suggestion of Major Palmer, our Resident with the late Madajee Scindia, to announce to the Marratta Government the sense we entertain "of any attempt in them to prefer claims or to avow principles subversive of the independence or injurious to the interests of the Company's Government, in consequence of their assumed authority under the King, or of any supposed remaining dominion over Hindostan in the descendants of Timur". Our present Governor General, Sir John Shore, in his minute of the 7th April, 1794, appears to have anticipated our directions upon this subject by observing "that to claims of this kind he should at once concisely reply that as the Company do not admit the immediate operation of the authority of the Court of Delhy over their possessions, they, of course, will not allow the exercise of it by delegation; that the claims profess an inadmissible as-

sumption of superiority in the Mar-
ratta States which we will not hear,
and which a sense of its impropriety
ought to have suppressed”.

21. It is necessary in this place to observe that we concur entirely in the sentiments expressed by Lord Cornwallis in his letter to Sir Charles Malet of the 27th October, 1792, and recited in the 112th paragraph of your Political Dispatch of the 14th December following, respecting the Marrattas' claim of *chout*; and meaning to impress those sentiments upon your minds in the most forcible manner as a rule for your conduct upon any future occasion of such a demand being brought forward, we repeat to you what His Lordship has so ably urged to our Resident at the Court of Poona, that with regard to the presumptuous Marratta claim of *chout*, we wish that as far as relates to ourselves it should not only be treated with contempt but that the Marrattas should also know that it can never be mentioned by them without exciting our displeasure, and it may likewise be proper that they should clearly understand that we do not look upon ourselves as in the most distant degree engaged to support them in such a claim upon any of the other powers in India.

22. Need no reply.

(75 to 77) Relative to the complaints of the Resident at Broach against Scindia's *Aumil*.

(78 to 85) Relative to the proposed Treaty of Guarantee between the Company, the Nizam and the Marrattas.

23. In the 39th paragraph of our dispatch in the Political Department of the 25th June, 1793, we expressed our approbation of the principles of the proposed alliance. We have since perused such parts of your correspondence upon that subject with the Residents at Poonah and Hyderabad as have been transmitted to us. From your observations communicated to us in your Political Dispatch of the 17th January, 1794, on the alterations proposed by the Marrattas on the ori-

ginal draft of the treaty submitted to their consideration, there appears no probability that the negociation will be brought to a speedy conclusion. We concur however in the propriety of those observations and approve of your instructions to the Resident at Poonah in consequence. But in the event of the negociation not being terminated by a formal instrument, we derive great satisfaction from the observation you have made to us, "that in the various discussions of the former treaty, the meaning of the contracting parties has been so far ascertained and declared as to leave no doubts remaining as to what may be deemed an infringement of the treaty, or the conduct to be pursued by them in that event".

(86) Relative to Meer Allum's intended visit to Poonah on the part of the Nizam.

24. We observe by the Governor General's letter of the 21st August last that Meer Allum, the Nizam's agent, is arrived at Poona. It will afford us great satisfaction to hear that the matter in dispute between the Courts of Hyderabad and Poonah have been amicably adjusted. We have only upon this subject to express our approbation of the instructions to the Residents at those Courts of the 19th May, 9th June, 3rd and 28th July and 8th August last.

(87 to 92) Relative to the desire of Madajee Scindia for the presence of Azcem-ul-Omrah at Poonah.

25. Need no reply.

(93) Transmitting a copy of Lord Cornwallis's minute respecting an acknowledgement to be made to Meer Allum for the services he has rendered to the Company.

26. We have perused Lord Cornwallis's minute of the 17th September, 1792, referred to in this paragraph, and approve of the allowance of rupees 1,200 per month to Meer Allum² for the services he has rendered to the Company.

(94) Referring to the consultations for particulars concerning Runinast Khan.

27. As we are advised in your Political Dispatch of the 28th October, 1793, that the Nizam has at length agreed to relinquish all interference between the competitors for the suc-

(95) Advising that Bulharree was delivered over some time ago on the part of Tippoo to the officer appointed by the Nizam to receive it.

(96 to 98) Nizam's *peshcush*.

(99) Relative to some heavy guns presented by Lord Cornwallis to the Nizam's Minister for the service of His Highness.

(100) Advising the acceptance of some bills drawn by Captain Dallas employed by the Madras Government to purchase horses at Hyderabad for their native cavalry.

(101) Referring to the consultations for papers received from Sir John Kennaway relative to the detachment commanded by Major Roberts.

(102) Mentions a passport through the Company's territories having been given to Monsieur Raymond to enable him to execute a commission for the purchase of sundry articles to the amount of a lack of rupees.

(103-104) Mention that Tippoo's *vackeels* had declared their ignorance of any English prisoners being in confinement at Gooty of which information of a doubtful nature had been received, and that they had promised to procure an order to the Commandant directing him immediately to liberate every person of that description.

(105) Relative to a person belonging to the Nizam having with an armed force committed depredations at a place called Tarmori in Tippoo's country.

(106-107) Of the precautions taken respecting the hostages.

(108) Of the cautious conduct observed lest Tippoo should succeed

cession to Kernoul we have no observations to make on the correspondence referred to in this paragraph.

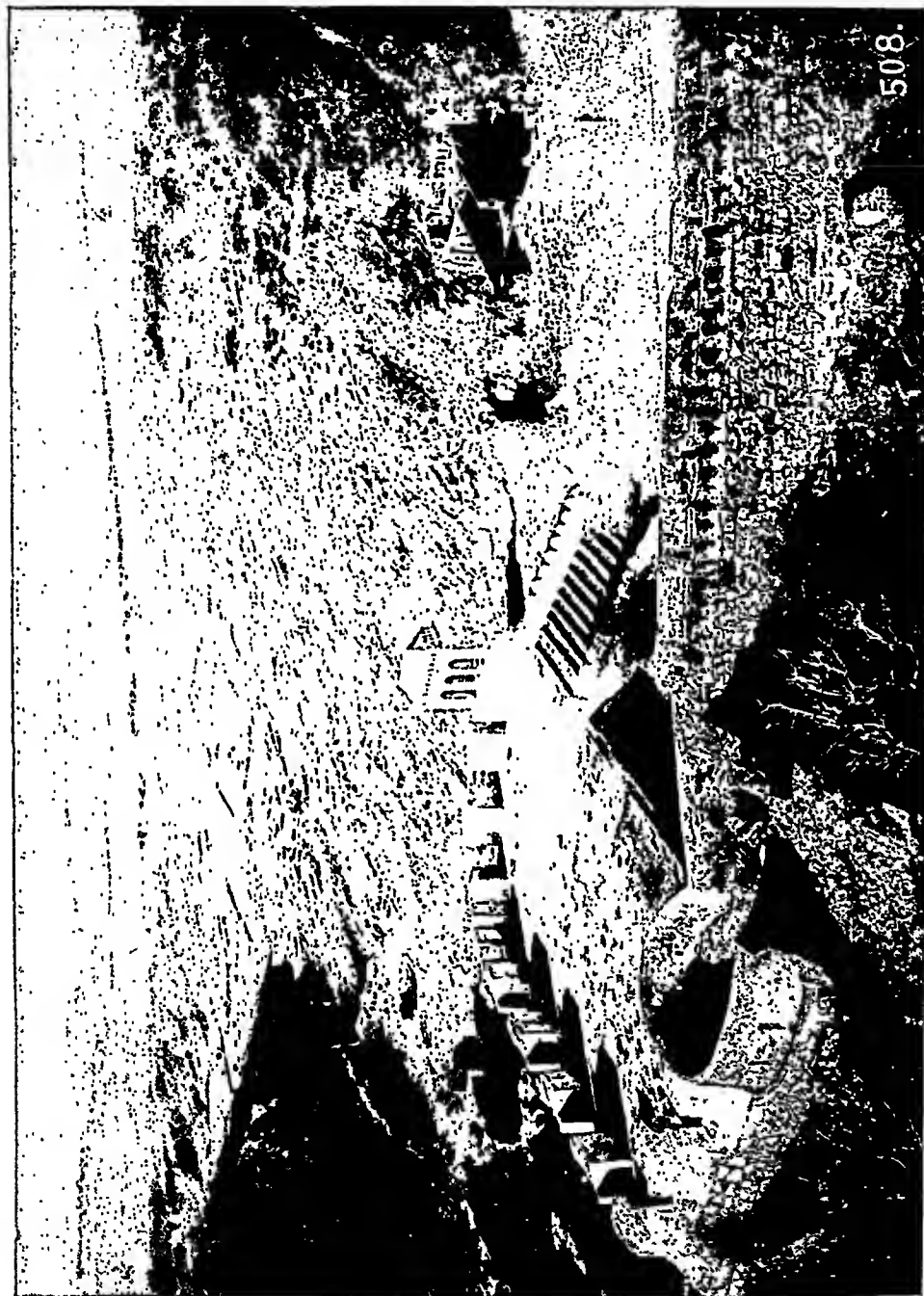
28. Needs no reply.

29. Already replied to.

30. Need no reply.

31. Should there be any just grounds for supposing that any of our unfortunate countrymen are still in confinement in the Mysore country you will not fail to make the most pressing solicitations to Tippoo Sul-taun for their release.

32. We approve of the instructions which were given upon this occasion to the Resident at Hyderabad.



Gooty fort: general view of the *chuthi* and bastion

5 JUNE 1795

91

in creating jealousies of us in the minds of our Allies.

(109) Referring to letters to the Governor General from the Nizam and Meer Allum.

(110) Referring to correspondence from the Resident at Poonah.

(111) Referring to their proceedings for intelligence respecting the contest for power in the administration at Poonah between Nana Furnavese and Mahajee Scindia.

33. Need no reply.

34. The recent death of one of these contending chiefs, Mahajee Scindia, has rendered all further discussion upon this point unnecessary. We are pleased however to find that in your opinion there is no reason to apprehend any immediate consequences from this important event prejudicial to the interests of the Company, nor any commotions in which your Government can be implicated. As you have not offered any conjectures (except what appears in Sir John Shore's minute of the 7th April, 1794) on the effect which Scindia's death is likely to produce upon the Marratta power or interest in Hindostan, it is impossible for us to give you any specific directions on this head. As therefore your conduct must be entirely governed by events, we have only upon this subject to exhort you to the most vigilant observance of the motions and proceedings, both in Hindostan and Decan, of the several members composing the Marratta State, and that you will make the peace and security of the Company's possessions, and those of their Allies, the primary object of your attention, having at the same time the most scrupulous regard to existing treaties and engagements.

35. We cannot quit this subject without observing that we derived great satisfaction from the perusal of Major Palmer's letter of the 4th April, 1793; wherein he mentions that in his journey from Ogeine towards Agra, by the road of Kotah and Bhoondy, he experienced.

of those districts and of Ooniara, who are all tributary to the Marrattas, an attention and hospitality which strongly marked their respect for the character of the British nation and Government in India.

(112) Relative to the proposed Treaty of Guarantee.

(113 to 115) Of the propriety of the Company furnishing the native powers with certain quantities of fire arms at reasonable prices.

36. Already replied to.

37. Although we formerly yielded to your representation upon this subject we have long been of opinion that our furnishing the neighbouring native powers with certain quantities of fire arms is by no means repugnant to principles of the soundest policy. We shall therefore have great satisfaction in complying with any indent for fire arms from your Presidency, and from the Governments of Madras and Bombay, with which we direct you to correspond upon the subject, in order to ascertain with as much precision as the nature of the case will admit the quantity that may be annually disposed of at those settlements.

(116-117) Relative to the forms to be observed on presenting the Company's presents to the Peshwa.

(118) Mentions that Sir Chas. Malet had lately forwarded copies of Lieutenant Emmitt's surveys to the Government of Bombay.

(119) Referring to a narrative from William Lee who had escaped from Tippoo's country.

(120) Mentions the arrival of Purseram Bhow at Poonah and his reception &c.

(121) Sir Chas. Malet authorized to receive any pecuniary acknowledgment that may be offered by the Poonah Government for the detachment commanded by Captain Little and to issue it to the officers and men.

38. Need no reply.

(122-123) Relative to Sir Charles Malet's claim to an ancient baronetage derived from Charles the 2d.

39. This claim has been submitted to the consideration of the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, one of

His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State.

(124-125) Relative to the hostilities between the troops of Scindia and Tockajee Holcar in the Upper Provinces &c., &c.

(126) Relative to a letter written by the King to Scindia and obtained by his *vackeel* on the subject of the Bengal tribute, and stating that it was unknown whether the *vackeel* had acted by the directions of his master or at his own instance.

(127 to 129) Referring to consultations for Scindia's answer to the representations of Major Palmer on the various causes of complaints against Scindia's officers &c., and stating it as Major Palmer's opinion that Scindia was well disposed to prevent any future cause of complaint.

(130 to 133) Relative to Scindia's claims on some inhabitants of Benares.

(134) Mentions that the report of Timur Shah's intentions to invade Hindostan is revived.

(135) Mentions that the Vizier has consented to the Prince's remaining at Benares and to grant him a monthly allowance.

(136) Vizier's demand for two battalions to proceed to Anophsheer complied with.

(137-138) Referring to Consultations for a complaint of some of the family of the late Hafez Remant Khan against the Vizier.

(139-140) Mentioning that in consequence of a pacification having taken place between the Napaul Raja and the Chinese, Captain Kirkpatrick's procedure to Napaul is suspended.

40. The recent death of Scindia must, we suppose, have greatly altered the posture of affairs in the Upper Provinces; any reply, therefore, to these paragraphs is now unnecessary.

41. Need no reply.

42. Already replied to.

(141-142) Mention the dispute with the Rajah of Berar's officers being terminated, the Rajah shewing a disposition to punish the offenders.

43. Need no reply.

(143) Military escort recalled from Nagpore.

(144) Stating that Vizieram Rauze had paid the full amount of his subsidy; but imagine that the vicinity of Colonel Cockerell's detachment had assisted in carrying this point.

44. You will learn our sentiments on this subject in our letter to Fort St. George dated the.....in the Revenue Department.

(145) Relative to Major Macdonald's offer to proceed to Europe via Egypt for the purpose of discovering a communication by the Red Sea for conveyance of dispatches.

45. In consequence of the encouragement given to Major Macdonald by Lord Cornwallis to undertake a journey to Europe by the way of the Red Sea for the purpose of discovering a communication for the conveyance of dispatches we have presented him with 15,000 rupees.

*Answer to letter in the Political Department,
dated 29th January, 1793.*

(1) Transmitting consultations and duplicate of last dispatch.

46. Needs no reply.

(2 to 8) Reporting the result of Colonel Maxwell's enquiry into the conduct of the Shevagherry Poligar; commending the conduct of the Colonel and of the Government of Fort St. George relative to this enquiry, and stating the directions given to Fort St. George in consequence.

47. Our advices to Fort St. George contain our sentiments and directions given to that Presidency on these subjects.

(9) Mentions that two letters have been received from the Nabob of Arcot relative to the payment of his *kists*, the orders given by him for a provision of goods in the Nellore District and stating his claims to the Shevagherry Pollam.

(10) Relating to some outrages committed by some of the poligars of the Carnatic in Tippoo's districts and stating the measures taken by the Madras Government in consequence.

(11-12) Transmitting copy of Tippoo's correspondence with his *vackeels* and copy of his letter to the Governor General denying the claim of the French to the district near Malé and relative to some points in dispute between Tippoo and the Nizam.

(13) Transmitting paper of intelligence from Mysore.

(14-15) Reasons why the Government of Fort St. George have not thought it advisable to entrust the Rajah of Tanjore with the management of his country.

(16) Reverend Mr. Swartz's attention to the widows and adopted son of the late Rajah commended.

(17) Concerning the conduct of Captains Wallace and Douglas and of Lieutenant Blackburn with respect to their interference in the affairs of Tanjore.

(18) Mentions that the young Rajah and the *Begums* are arrived at Madras.

(19 to 22) Concerning a misunderstanding that has taken place between the Rajah of Travencore and Mr. Powney, the Resident; and advising that General Abercromby had been requested to employ Mr. Boddam in the negotiations with the Rajah in Mr. Powney's stead; and that the propriety of placing the Residency of Travencore and Cochin under Bombay would be hereafter considered.

(23) Advising the arrival of the Bengal Commissioners at Calicut and of their having commenced the business of their Commission in conjunction with the Commissioners of Malabar.

(24) Referring to consultations for the answer of Commodore Cornwallis on the reference made to him on the subject of the dispute with the captain of the Portuguese ship.

48. Need no reply.

49. We refer you to our dispatches to Fort St. George for the directions we have given on these subjects.

50. We also refer you to our dispatches to Fort St. George for the directions we have given on this subject.

51. Need no reply.

(25) Advising that the claim on the Rajah of Malwan has been settled and an agreement concluded with him by the Government of Bombay ratified.

(26) Concerning the disputes with Sindia's officers at Broach and mentioning that the *amanda* for the *Niabut* of Surat had been granted without the exaction of any increased *nuzzetana*.

(27) Transmitting correspondence with the Residents at Poona and Hyderabad.

(28/29) Mentioning that nothing worthy of notice has occurred in the Upper Provinces since the date of last dispatch, and transmitting copies of letters from Tokajee Holkar to his *sackee* and to the Governor General.

(30) Copy of a letter from the Vizier in reply to the Governor General's communication of the Court's satisfaction of the proofs of his attachment.

(31) Concerning the oppressive conduct of the Vizier to the family of the late Hyder Beg Cawn.

(32) Referring to a minute of Lord Cornwallis on the disorderly state of the Vizier's country and stating the necessity of the interference of Government to restore order and regularity therein.

52. Already replied to

53. Need no reply

54. We trust that your interference has been effectual in preventing the family of the late Hyder Beg Cawn from experiencing any further oppression from the Vizier.

55. It gives us great concern to observe by your latest advice that no remedy has yet been applied by the Vizier or his Ministers to the disordered state of Oude, notwithstanding the recommendation and remonstrances of Lord Cornwallis, and our present Governor General Sir John Shore. We however rely on the continuance of your endeavors for procuring the adoption of such regulations for the reform of the police and internal administration of the country of Oude as will effectually restore order and regularity to the government and finances of the province.

(33) Stating that Saudit Ally has been permitted to reside some part of the year near Calcutta, but that he is to be allowed no exemption from the jurisdiction of the *adawlut*s and other ordinary regulations of Government.

(34) Referring to sundry papers relating to the settlement of the boundaries between the territories of Oude and Benares.

(35) Transmitting copies of letters from the deputies of the Rajah of Napaul. Also copy of Captain Kirkpatrick's instructions on his proceeding on his embassy.

(36) Transmitting copy of correspondence with Captain Welsh on a deputation to Assam, also of his instructions.

56. We approve of the terms on which you have allowed Saudit Ally to reside within the Company's provinces as advised in this paragraph.

57. This subject requires no reply at present as you observe you shall have occasion to write more fully thereon hereafter.

58. Already replied to.

59. Your short letter in the Political Department, dated the 7th of March, 1793, requires no reply.

Answer to the letter in the Political Department, dated the 18th May, 1793.

(1) Mentioning the dates of the advices of the past season.

(2 to 6) Concerning the refractory conduct of Rajah Vizieram Rauze.

(7) Advising that the Shevagherry Poligar has been restored to his *pollam*.

(8 to 12) Concerning the Nabob of Arcot's displeasure against some of the petty poligars of the Carnatic, and his desire to exterminate them and stating that the Government of Madras have been desired to persuade His Highness to adopt more lenient measures.

(13 to 15) Relative to the Nabob of Arcot's complaint against Messrs. Kindersley and Torin for the embezzlement of the revenues of his country.

(16-17) Referring to a statement of

60. Needs no reply.

61. For our sentiments and directions on the subject of these paragraphs we refer you to our advices to Fort St. George, copy of which will be as usual transmitted.

the settlement of the revenue of the Carnatic.

(18) Mentioning that the Rajah of Tanjore has been restored to the management of his country.

(19 to 21) Mentioning a complaint from Madras against the conduct of the Shevagengah Poligar and that the request of that Government to be allowed to interfere so far in the management of his country as to appoint a *Desam* has been refused.

62. We consent in the reasons you have given to the Madras Government for declining to grant them authority to appoint a *Desam* to the Rajah Shanno Patti (Vellore), and of otherwise interfering in the internal management of his country. We also approve of your direction in consequence of Colonel Martin's proposition for a military detachment to attend the Collector at the Rajah's place of residence.

(22 to 25) Mentions that Mr. Powney has been recalled from Travencore and that he will be succeeded by a Bombay servant; that the Rajah has agreed to the proposed subsidy, and that Mr. Beldam is appointed to negotiate the arrangement.

(26) Relative to the establishment of the western frontier in the Narasim District.

(27) Fort St. George authorized to raise two additional battalions to replace those lent to the Nizam.

(28) Referring to correspondence between Tippoo and Sir Charles Oakeley on the occasion of presenting him with the portraits of the two hostage princes.

(29) Mentions that Captain Read's settlement of the ceded countries will evince the great abilities of that gentleman in the execution of it.

(30-31) Relative to the loss on the re-coinage of the Mysore coins in which Tippoo's payments were made, and mentions that the 1st instalment of the 2nd *kist* to the Allies, and the 2nd instalment of the said *kist* to the Company, have been paid.

63. These subjects are included in our advice to the Madras Government.

1. The first of the two main parts of the book is devoted to a study of the history of the English language from the beginning of the 15th century to the present day. The second part is devoted to a study of the English language in the 19th and 20th centuries.

2. The book is written in a clear and concise style, and is suitable for students of English literature and language.

3. The book is a valuable addition to the library of any student of English literature and language, and is highly recommended.

4. The book is a well-written and informative study of the English language, and is highly recommended.

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15. The book is a well-written and informative study of the English language, and is highly recommended.



(59) Referring generally to the correspondence with Sir John Kenna-way.

(60) Mentions that the appointments of Sir John Shore and Sir Robert Abercromby have been notified to the country powers; and the Marquis Cornwallis's intention to remain till August.

(61) Referring to consultations for the measures taken for providing for the future payment of the Nizam's *peshcush*.

(62) Referring to consultations for the correspondence with the Commissioners on the Malabar Coast and observing that the subject will be fully detailed from Bombay.

(63) Transmitting copy of instructions to Bombay in consequence of a reference from Bussora against the conduct of the Jews there.

(64 to 66) Concerning the piracies of the Malwans, and stating substance of instructions to Bombay on the subject, and that on the arrival of General Abercromby a plan will be immediately settled for obtaining redress and compensation for the injuries sustained from their depredations.

(67 to 75) Complaint of the Poonah *Durbar* against the Mayor's Court of Bombay.

68. Need no reply.

69. We refer you to the enclosed copy of our letter to Bombay for our decision on the subject of the late dispute between the Resident and Factors at Bussora, and the *Basha* of Bagdat.

70. We have already given our sentiments on the conduct of the acting Government of Bombay respecting the piratical depredations lately committed on the Malabar Coast, a copy of which has been transmitted to you. We trust that the most effectual measures have long since been carried into execution as well for putting a stop to similar acts of atrociousness as for obtaining a compensation for the injuries the merchants have sustained thereby.

71. We have perused the papers to which you have referred us, and also those received from Bombay on the subject of a complaint made to the Resident at Poonah by the Peishwa's Ministers against the Mayor's Court at Bombay. It is evident that the appearance at Poona of a writ of summons from the Court (in which consisted the most material part of the

complaint) addressed to two subjects of the Marratta State was neither owing to any irregularity in the proceedings of the Mayor's Court nor to any improper conduct on the part of the Sheriff or his officers.

72. With respect to the conduct of Dady Nasserwanjee,⁴ who seems duly sensible of the blessings he has enjoyed during a long residence under the Company's protection, there is an evident want of candor in his proceedings against Tricumdoss, even supposing him to have been in reality his debtor, after he, Dady, had entered into engagements with our Resident at Poona for an amicable adjustment there of his dispute with Tricumdoss and Wallubdoss, and had positively pledged himself to abide by the award which the Resident might obtain. But without entering into any further discussion on this subject, we have only to express our approbation of the instructions which were given to the Government of Bombay, in consequence of the opinion of the Advocate General of the 28th March, 1794, of which we received a copy by the *Nancy* packet, and to observe that we concur in sentiment with you on the indifference shewn by that Government to the representations of Sir Charles Malet, our Resident at the Court of Poona, in a case taken up by that Court on public and national ground.

(76 to 80) Complaint against the Government of Bombay for not complying with a request of the Marratta Government for a temporary suspension of duties on grain.

73. We likewise concur in opinion with you on the conduct of the Bombay Government in not complying with the request of the Marratta Government, communicated to them through Sir Chas. Malet, for a suspension of duties on grain, and approve of the directions that were given upon that occasion.

(81) Referring generally to the letters from Sir Charles Malet,

74. Needs no reply.

(82 to 84) Concerning the state of parties at Poona, and quoting Sir Charles Malet's opinion on the Marratta claim to the Guyckwar territory, and the probable effect the enterprize may have on the Company's interests. Mentions also another subject that may tend to encrease the jealousy between Scindia and the Marratta Government.

(85-86) Stating that Scindia's power and possessions, although in no danger from any hostile attempts, is much on the decline and that Holcar has solicited the mediation of the Company in the contest between him and Scindia &ca., &ca.

(87) Mentions that the Vizier has been dissuaded from visiting Calcutta, but that his Ministers have been allowed to wait on the Governor General.

(88) Stating the necessity of a reform in the general administration of the Vizier's affairs, and that the subject will be taken up on the Ministers' arrival.

(89) Expressing hopes that the Vizier will not further molest the family of the late Hyder Beg Khan.

(90 to 98) Containing narrative of circumstances attendant on Captain Kirkpatrick's embassy to Napaul, and stating the causes of the objects of it not being fully effected. Translate of the Chinese letter mentioned in a former dispatch transmitted. Captain Kirkpatrick's conduct approved.

(99 to 108) Advising the result of Captain Welsh's deputation to Assam.

75. The Governor General's instructions to Sir Charles Malet, of the 1st November, 1793, recited in your Political Dispatch of the 5th of that month, relative to the views of the Marrattas on the Guickwar territory of Guzzerat, were very judicious under the circumstances in which they were given. But we are pleased to find by your dispatch of the 30th November, 1793, that the Poonah administration have receded from their exorbitant claims upon the territories and property of Govin Row, and by more recent advices that this controversy has been brought to a favorable termination.

76. Already replied to.

The advantage of a commercial intercourse with Assam not doubted. The ringleaders of the disturbance in Assam apprehended.

(109 to 111) Advising that the duty on pilgrimage at Gyah has been remitted to several persons named, and their followers, above 1,000 persons.

(112) Concerning some depredations committed by Adjeet Sing in the Ramghur District.

(113) Advising that the Residency of Ballasore is withdrawn.

80. The proceedings advised in your Political Letters of the 1st and 13th August, 1793, in consequence of the rupture between Great Britain and the French have received our approbation, and we have already expressed our satisfaction of the judicious measure which, at the recommendation of Sir John Shore, was adopted for fitting out a naval force for the protection of commerce against the enemy cruizers. Agreeably to the representation in the last paragraph of your letter of the 1st of August, we hope soon to transmit commissions from the Admiralty authorizing the condemnation of prizes at our several Presidencies; and our Solicitor has been directed to furnish us for the use of our respective Governments with the most approved precedents he can meet with of proceedings in prize causes which we shall forward accordingly.

77. As we presume it was through motives of policy that you complied with the request of the several persons named in these paragraphs for a remission of the Gyah duties to so large a number of pilgrims, we acquiesce therein; but you must be careful that your indulgences in this respect do not afford an expectation that the same should be allowed to everyone who may choose to make a pilgrimage with a numerous train of followers.

78. Needs no reply.

79. For the reasons stated in this paragraph we approve of your having abolished the Residency of Ballasore.

We are,
Your affectionate friends,

London,
the 5th June, 1795.

(Received on 26th October,
1795, *per Walsingham*.)

Step. Lushington / D. Scott / George
Tatem / John Roberts / Cha. Grant /
Abr'am Robarts / Thos. Fitzhugh /
Chas. Mills / Thos. Parry / Lionel
Darell / George Smith / James Irwin /
Paul Lemesurier / Joseph Cotton.

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 3 JULY 1795

Army thanked for the reduction of Pondicherry—Approval of the firm action taken against Ghulam Muhammad Khan of Rampur—Court's letter to the Vazir evincing great interest in Oudh's prosperity.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

OUR Governor General in Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our last letter in the Political Department was dated the 5th June, 1795. We shall answer by the present conveyance your several dispatches in this Department received in the course of the past season.

*Answer to the letter in the Political Department,
dated the 13th August, 1793.*

(1) Mentions the date of the last dispatch.

2. Needs no reply.

(2-3) Relative to the disturbances in the Guntoor Circar.

(4 to 6) Relative to the proposed arrangement for establishing the western frontier upon the Coast.

(7 to 10) Relative to the raising of the two additional battalions at Madras.

(11 to 23) Advising of the preparations that were made for the siege of Pondicherry.

(24) Relative to the capture of Yanam.

(25 to 32) Mentions the offer of the Nabob of Arcot of his assistance in the war, and the measures taken in consequence.

(33) Mentions the Nabob having paid the full amount of one year's *kist*.

(34) Advising of the measures for restoring the Rajah of Tanjore to the management of his country.

3. Upon these subjects, you are referred to our dispatches to the Madras Government.

4. Already replied to.

5. You are likewise referred upon these subjects to our dispatches to the Madras Government. We must remark, however, in this place that we have not yet received either from you, or from Fort St. George, the answers (referred to in the 36th paragraph) to the questions proposed to the Bengal and Benares *pundits* relative to the laws of inheritance, succession and adoption amongst the Hindoos, so

(35-36) Concerning some questions put to the Bengal and Benares *pundits* relative to the laws of inheritance &ca. amongst the Hindoos, so far as they appeared applicable to the case of Serfogee, the adopted son of the late Rajah of Tanjore.

far as they appear applicable to the case of Surfogee, the adopted son of the late Rajah of Tanjore.

(37) Relative to the general system for the government of the ceded countries on the Malabar Coast.

6. We have already given our sentiments on this subject in our advices to Bombay of last season.

(38) Advising of a Bombay vessel having been taken by the *Subadar* of Geriah under the pretext of her not having had the usual pass, and afterwards released on an application to the Maratta Government for that purpose.

7. Needs no reply.

(39-40) Relative to the dispute about the Guickwar Territory.

8. Already replied to.

(41) Relative to the removal of the factory at Bussora in consequence of the dispute between the Resident and Factors, and the *Bacha* of Bagdat.

9. You will have learned our sentiments upon this subject from our dispatches to the Government of Bombay.

(42) Mentions the time of the arrival at Bombay of intelligence of the war with France, and the orders in consequence for taking possession of Mahé.

10. Already replied to.

(43 to 48) Relative to the Nizam's march to Bider &ca.

(49-50) Advising of several papers purporting to be letters between Tippoo and Mulick Essau, a subject of the Nizam, relative to the surrendering to Tippoo the districts entrusted to his care having fallen into the hands of Azeem-ul-Omrah.

11. We have not been informed of the issue of the enquiry that was to take place at Hyderabad relative to the authenticity of these papers, and of the determination of that Court in consequence.

(51 to 57) Relative to the Nizam's claims on Kirnoul.

12. Already replied to.

(58) Mentions the Nizam having signified his readiness to support the Company in the war against the French, should his assistance be desired,

(59) Mentions an application from Meer Allum for an exemption from duties on some goods from Benares, and that the same had been complied with.

(60) Advising that the Scycham [Seycheev¹], whose cause was espoused by Madajee Scindia, has been reinstated in the full possession of his rights.

(61) Mentions the suspicions of Tippoo that the Peshwa encouraged and protected persons in committing depredations on his frontiers, which was denied by the Marratta Minister who gave an unequivocal proof of his sincerity.

(62 to 64) Proposed Guaranttee Treaty.

(65) Mentions the answer that was given to the Poonah Minister on the information he had received that the Nizam was increasing his levies, and that he had been permitted to procure recruits from the Carnatic, *vizt.*, that he had not received any such permission &c.

(66) Mentions the arrival at Darwar of Tippoo's second *kist* for the Marattas.

(67) Advising the measures for expediting the departure of the hostage princes from Madras.

(68 to 72) Advising the measures that have been taken for adjusting the boundary disputes between the Nizam, the Peshwa and Tippoo, and for adjusting the differences between the Company and Tippoo relative to some villages in the districts of Cauviripour and Veerepatchee.²

13. Need no reply.

14. Already replied to.

15. Need no reply.

16. In a letter from Sir Charles Malet addressed to our Chairman, dated 2nd January, 1795, we are informed that the boundary disputes between the Nizam and Tippoo had been totally and amicably terminated by an exchange of instruments between the agents of both parties. We have likewise been advised from Madras of the adjustment of the differences between the Company and Tippoo relative to the villages in the districts of Cauviripour and Verrepatchee.

(73-74) Mentions Tipoo having given the most solemn assurances that there was not a single Englishman confined in his dominions to his knowledge.

(75) Mentions the arrival of the Company's 3rd *kist* from Tippoo at Kistnagherry.

(76) Referring to their proceedings for intelligence from the Mysore country.

(77 to 80) Relative to the operations of Scindia &c*a.* in the Upper Provinces.

(81 to 83) Mentions the probability of the early return of Scindia to the Upper Provinces.

(84) Transmitting a survey made by Mr. Hunter, Surgeon to the Residency with Scindia, of the Resident's route to and from Ogiene from Agra by the way of Gualior.

(85-86) Mention the arrival at Calcutta from Oude of Hussein Reza Cawn and Rajah Tikait Roy.

(87) Mentions the Vizier having liquidated his payments to the end of June.

(88-89) Relative to some disturbances created at Benares by the agent of Nanna Furnavese, &c*a.*

(90 to 97) Assam.

(98-99) Napaul.

(100 to 104) Advising the steps that were taken in consequence of the intelligence of the war with France.

(105 to 107) Relative to the granting letters of marque and reprisal, &c*a.*

(108) Recites the minute delivered in by Lord Cornwallis previous to his departure for the Coast.

(109) Mentions the return of the *Triton* to the Coast.

17. We hope these assurances may be relied on. Should you however have any reason to doubt their sincerity, you will be unceasing in your endeavors to procure the release of such of our unhappy countrymen as may still be in confinement in the dominions of Mysore.

18. Need no reply.

19. Already replied to.

20. This subject is under consideration.

21. Need no reply.

*Answer to the letter in the Political Department,
dated 28th October, 1793.*

(1 to 4) Mention the capture of Pondicherry.

(5) Mentions that the *Royal Charlotte, Warley and Triton* sailed for China soon after the surrender of Pondicherry.

(6) Mentions that during the siege the Nabob of Arcot remitted all duties on articles passing to the camp bazar, and took every precaution to render the supplies regular and abundant.

(7) Relative to the refractory conduct of the Zemindar of Vizianagrum.

(8) Relative to the debts of Mobareck-ul-Dowla, son of the late Hussein Ally Khan.

(9-10) Relative to the dispute between the Resident and Factors at Bussora, and the *Bacha* of Bagdat.

(11) Engagement between the Governor of Bombay and the Rajah of Travencore for the delivery of 5,000 *candies* of pepper in liquidation of the arrears due from him on account of Colonel Hartley's detachment.

(12-13) Relative to the Malwa[n] piracies.

(14-15) Mention the surrender of Mahe.

(16 to 19) Referring to papers relative to the disputes which have arisen

22. Upon this subject, we have come to the following resolution. "Resolved unanimously that the thanks of this Court be given to Colonel Brathwaite, late Commander in Chief of the forces at Madras, and to the officers and soldiers under his command, for their good conduct and the important services rendered to the Company by them in the reduction of Pondicherry, and that the same be communicated to them in public orders."

23. Need no reply.

24. Will be replied to in our Revenue Dispatch to Fort St. George.

25. Replied to in our orders to Bombay.

26. Will be replied to in our advices to Bombay.

27. Already replied to.

28. Need no reply.

29. We observe by the Governor General's instructions to Captain

between the Coorga Raja and Tippoo on the subject of their respective boundaries.

Doveton of the 27th March, 1794, given on a supposition that he was to proceed to Seringapatam, that he was not to introduce any discussions relative to the claims of the Coorga Rajah, as the Rajah himself seemed by no means inclined to invite, or even to wish, our interference. We have not been advised of the final settlement of this business, nor of the adjustment on the various other points contained in Mr. Doveton's instructions, upon which we direct you will specifically report to us.

(20-21) Mention the arrival of Tippoo's last *kist* for the Allies at Gurramcondah.

(22) Referring to papers for intelligence from the Mysore country.

(23-24) Respecting the Nizam's March to Bidder, and his views on Keernoul.

(25-26) Relative to the Guzzerat territories.

(27) Forwarding a copy of Lord Cornwallis's letter to the Vizier on the necessity of reforming the administration of his finances, and retrenching his own personal expenses.

(28) Mentions the Dutch Government at Columbo having solicited aid in consequence of their apprehensions of being attacked by the French, and that aid has been promised, should it be hereafter necessary.

30. Need no reply.

31. Already replied to.

32. Need no Reply.

*Answer to the letter in the Political Department,
dated the 5th November, 1793.*

(1 to 3) Guickwar territory.

(4 to 6) Advising the resignation of Sir John Kennaway of the Residency of Hyderabad, and of the appointment of Captain W. Kirkpatrick thereto.

33. Already replied to.

34. We approve of the appointment of Captain W. Kirkpatrick to be Resident at Hyderabad, in the room of Sir John Kennaway, of whose able and judicious conduct in the execution of that office we entertain the highest opinion.

(7 to 14) Relative to the equipment of a naval force for the general protection of trade.

35. Already replied to.

*Answer to the letter in the Political Department,
dated the 16 November, 1793.*

(1 to 6) Relative to the naval armament fitted out for the protection of trade against the depredations of the French cruisers.

36. Already replied to.

(7) Mentions a report of two French privateers being off Ceylon about the end of September.

37. Needs no reply.

(8) Transmitting copy of an application from the Commanders of the Indiamen ordered on service against the French cruisers, and the Board's resolution thereon.

38. We approve of your resolution of the 16th of November, 1793, upon the application from the Commanders of the *William Pitt*, *Pigot* and *Houghton*.

*Answer to the letter in the Political Department,
dated 30th November, 1793.*

(1-2) Mention the date of the last dispatch, and acknowledging the receipt of the Court's letter of the 25th June, 1793.

39. Need no reply.

(3 to 7) In answer to the said letter.

(8) Advising that the Marquis Cornwallis considered the proprietary right of the three small talooks belonging to the Rajah of Travancore, and included in the statement of Tippoo's cessions to the Company, too doubtful to serve as a ground for persisting in the claim upon Tippoo for a compensation for them, thinking at the same time that they should be left in the possession of the Rajah of Travancore.

40. This subject will naturally be adverted to when we enter into the consideration of the final meeting of the Malabar Commissioners, and your resolutions thereon.

(9) Guaranty Treaty.

41. Already replied to.

(10) Mentions the *Oude kists* since the succession of Hossein Riza Khan to the office of Minister on the demise of Hyder Beg having been paid with regularity.

(11) That particular enquiry is making for the Oude correspondence between the years 1778 and 1786.

(12) Mentions that the Court's orders on the subject of the claims on the inhabitants of Broach will be duly attended to.

(13-14) Guickwar territory.

(15-16) Relative to the naval armament fitted out from Calcutta for the general protection of trade against the French cruizers.

42. Need no reply.

43. Already replied to.

*Answer to the letter in the Political Department,
dated 17th January, 1794.*

(1) Political occurrences since the last dispatch will be detailed under distinct heads.

(2-3) Relative to the adjustment with Tippoo of a point concerning some villages in the talook of Solagurry.

(4 to 9) The remaining undecided points related to a watercourse of the Caveri, and to the transfer of certain villages belonging to Caroor.

(10 to 20) Relative to some villages claimed from Tippoo by the Nizam, and which claim occasioned a delay in the departure of the hostage princes.

(21 to 24) Relative to the Nizam's march to Bidder, and his negotiations with the Peshwa and Madajee Scindia.

(25-26) Relative to the repeated delays of the Nizam in the payment of the detachment belonging to the Company serving in his dominion, and to the renter who was supposed to have fled from the Nizam's Government, and to have taken refuge in ours.

44. We direct that for the sake of perspicuity your political occurrences be stated to us, in your future dispatches, under separate heads, agreeably to the mode pointed out in this paragraph.

45. These points, you will observe, are discussed in our Political Dispatch to the Government of Madras.

46. Already replied to.

47. We approve of your directions to the Resident at Hyderabad on the subject mentioned in these paragraphs.

(27 to 35) Guaranty Treaty.

(36) Maratta claims on the Guick-war territories. }

48. Already replied to.

(37-38) Relative to an urgent application from the Peshwa for a remission of the sentence of death which had been pronounced upon a Bramin at Bombay before the Mayor's Court for a murder.

49. We were prevented from applying to the Crown for the pardon of the person mentioned in these paragraphs on account of the Government of Bombay not having acquainted us with the name of the party or furnished us with a copy of the proceedings on the trial. They have been directed to supply these deficiencies that we may be able to submit the Peshwa's request to the determination of His Majesty.

(39) No reason to apprehend any interruption to the good understanding subsisting between the Company and the principal powers in Hindostan.

50. Needs no reply.

(40) Mentions an application from the Nabob of Arcot to purchase the military stores and guns taken at Pondicherry, the resolution of the Governor General in Council to comply therewith, and the direction to the Madras Government to dispose of such of them to His Highness as were not wanted for the Company's use.

51. We approve of the directions which were given to Madras on the subject mentioned in this paragraph.

(41-42) Mention the representations from the Nabob of Arcot relating to the polygars who by the terms of the treaty concluded by Marquis Cornwallis now pay their revenue to the office of the Company at Madras.

52. We refer you in a special manner to our opinion and direction at large upon this subject contained in our dispatch in the Political Department to the Government of Madras, dated the 10th June last.

(43) Relative to the adjustment of the Nabob's accounts with the Company.

53. This subject is also alluded to in that dispatch.

(44) Mentions the receipt of the report of the proceedings of the Commissioners in the Malabar Coast, and the return of Mr. Duncan to Bengal.

54. Needs no reply.

(45 to 48) Importance of Cochin to the security of the southern territories on the Malabar Coast, and recommendation to obtain it, by purchase or otherwise, from the Dutch.

55. The suggestions contained in these paragraphs relative to the importance of Cochin to the security of our southern territories on the Malabar Coast will be attended to.

(49) Referring to a letter from the Rajah of Travancore containing proposals for a more intimate connection and alliance with the Company.

(50) Conduct of the Rajah of Travancore in not supplying the Company with pepper agreeably to his contract.

(51) Concerning the depredations of certain pirates residing in the Gulph of Cambay, and the Bombay Government being authorized to employ their cruizers in destroying the boats of these pirates.

(52) Concerning the intention of Admiral Cornwallis to return with the *Minerva* to Europe.

(53 to 57) Assam.

(58-59) Napaul.

(60) Referring to the muster rolls and general returns of the crews on board the squadron under the command of Commodore Michell.

(61) Relative to a report of the French having captured Bencoolen.

(62) Transmitting copy of a letter from Captain Michell.

(63) Transmitting copy of a letter from the Secret and Superintending Committee at Canton.

(64) Transmitting copy of an application from the Governor and Council of Batavia for naval aid for the protection of their trade.

56. We have not yet been advised of your sentiments upon this subject.

57. Already replied to.

58. We approve of your having authorized the Government of Bombay to employ their cruizers in destroying the boats of certain pirates residing in the Gulph of Cambay in consequence of the merchants of that Presidency having been exposed to their depredations, and we trust that the measure has proved successful.

59. Needs no reply.

60. Already replied to.

61. Need no reply.

62. Your short letter in the Political Department of the 20th January, 1794, relating to Captain Mitchell's squadron requires no particular reply.

*Answer to the letter in the Political Department,
dated the 13th February, 1794.*

(1) Mentioning the date of last dispatch.

63. Needs no reply.

(2 to 6) In detail of the circumstances which induced them to authorize the departure of the hostage princes to Seringapatam.

(7) Forwarding copies of two letters from the Nabob of Oude to the King and Court of Directors.

(8) Referring to a paper in the packet for intelligence relative to French privateers under equipment from the Isle of France.

(9) Mentions the sailing of Admiral Cornwallis from Bombay, 12th January, 1794.

64. We approve of your having authorized the departure of the hostage princes to Seringapatam under the circumstances stated in these paragraphs.

65. We have written an answer to the letter we received from the Nabob of Oude and have forwarded it in the packet to be presented to His Excellency by the Resident at Lucknow. A copy of this letter is enclosed.

66. Need no reply.

67. Your letter of the 15th February, 1794, is entirely upon the subject of the entrance of some Burma troops into the province of Chittagong. As it has since appeared that these troops had no hostile intention, we have only to express our approbation of your proceedings upon this subject reported in this dispatch and in your subsequent advices.

*Answer to the letter in the Political Department,
dated the 10th March, 1794.*

(1 to 4) Advising the death of Madajee Scindia, and the succession of Dowlut Row, his adopted son; but declining to offer any conjecture on the effect which Scindia's death may produce upon the Maratta powers, or interest, in Hindostan.

(5 to 8) Referring to two letters from the Resident at Hyderabad to shew the disposition of the Nizam to qualify or retract his acquiescence in the return of the hostage princes; but that the terms of acquiescence would not admit of a doubtful construction; and mentioning that preparations were making at Madras for their immediate return.

68. Already replied to.

69. Need no reply.

(9) On the construction and extent of the 7th article of the Treaty of Seringapatam relative to the description of refugees to be delivered up by the contracting parties respectively.

(10) Referring to a minute of the Governor General relative to the future management of the province of Benares.

(11 to 16) Relative to the entrance of the Burma troops into the Chittagong District.

(17 to 21) Forwarding copy of a representation from the committee of merchants relative to the defenceless state of the maritime commerce from the want of a sufficient naval force to protect it, but that no decision has yet been passed on the subject.

(22-23) Advising that the squadron under Commodore Mitchell left Rhio near the straits of Singapore about the middle of January.

(24-25) Apologizing for not transmitting the report &c. of the Commissioners on the Malabar Coast.

70. This subject is adverted to in our Political Dispatch to Fort St. George.

71. Replied to in the Judicial Department.

72. Already replied to.

73. We approve of your resolution upon this subject advised in your subsequent dispatch of the 15th May, 1794.

74. Need no reply.

*Answer to the letter in the Political Department,
dated the 15th May, 1794.*

(1) Mentions the date of the last dispatch.

(2) Mentions that the Madras Government have concurred with them in the construction of 7th article of the Treaty of Seringapatam.

(3 to 5) Defence of the western frontier in the Carnatic.

(6 to 8) Mention their having required of the Government of Madras plans of all forts and fortifications &c.

75. Need no reply.

76. Will be replied to in a separate dispatch to the Government of Madras.

77. Need no reply.

(9) Referring to their instructions to the Governor and Council of Bombay relative to the fortifications of Paulgatcherry and Cannanore.

(10 to 13) Transmitting copies of the proceedings and report of the Commissioners deputed to the province of Malabar, and referring to the Governor General's minute, and resolutions and instructions in consequence.

(14-15) Referring generally to the correspondence with Captain Davenport and the Residents at Poona and Hyderabad, and to the Governor General's minute of the 7th April containing a general review of our political situation in respect to the Marattas, the Nizam, Tippoo Sultaun, and the northern powers of Hindostan.

(16 to 20) Advising the departure of the hostage princes from Madras on 27th February, 1794, their safe arrival and reception &c., &c.

(21) The weak administration and inconsistent conduct of Azcem-ul-Omra, and the impolicy of his negotiations with the late Mahajec Scindia, and the probable consequences of his controversial discussions with the Peshwa, have been already pointed out, and is confirmed by the present correspondence.

(22) Mentions the confirmation of Secunder Jah, the minor son of the late Dorah Jah, in his father's right; and the investiture of Dowlat Row Scindia, with a ceremonial reservation on the part of the Peshwa, expressive of that cautious reserve which on all occasions marks the character of his Government.

(23) Lieutenant Michie deputed with a proper escort to convey the

78. Will be replied to in a separate dispatch to the Government of Bombay.

79. The papers referred to in these paragraphs are so extremely voluminous that we have not had leisure to consider them with the attention they deserve. We shall however by a future opportunity communicate our sentiments thereon to the Bombay Government.

80. We have perused the papers referred to in these paragraphs, and particularly the very able minute of the Governor General of the 7th April, 1794. But in addition to the observations contained in our last dispatch in this department of the 5th June, 1795, on the various points of your political correspondence, we have no instructions to give you at present.

81. Need no particular reply.

82. Needs no reply.

83. By a letter from Sir Charles Malet to our Chairman, dated Poonah,

jewels of the late Ragobah to Poonah by the way of Benares and Bundelcund.

(24) Advising of their determination to continue the Residency at the Court of Scindia's successor, provided he shall desire it.

(25) Mentions Mr. Cherry having succeeded Mr. Ives as Resident at Lucknow.

(26) Of the possible intention of the King to leave Delhy and take refuge with the English and Vizier, and their instructions in consequence.

(27 to 28) Relative to the endeavors of the Marquis Cornwallis and Sir John Shore to prevail on the Nabob Vizier to make arrangements for the internal administration of his country.

(29 to 32) Assam.

(33 to 35) Burmas.

(36 to 38) Advising their resolutions on the application of the merchants relative to the general protection of trade.

(39) Transmitting the following original letters and translations from the Nizam to His Majesty.

From Munny Begum to the Company.

From the Nabob of Bengal to the Court of Directors.

the 2d January, 1795, it appears that these jewels had not then reached that place, but that they were detained at Benares in expectation of an escort from Ally Behauder. We hope however soon to hear of their safe arrival.

84. We approve of the instructions to Major Palmer upon this subject. We observe by the 40th paragraph of your subsequent dispatch of the 18th August, 1794, that Dowlat Row Scindia has expressly signified his wishes for the continuance of the Residency.

85. Needs no reply.

86. We approve of your instructions upon this subject for the Resident to adhere to the directions given by Lord Cornwallis to Mr. Ives on the 16th May, 1788, on a similar occasion.

87. We trust to be soon advised that His Excellency and his Minister have profited by your repeated friendly admonition and recommendation for the better arrangement of the internal administration of his country. We have taken occasion to advert to this subject in our letter to the Nabob which accompanies this dispatch.

88. Already replied to.

89. The former has been presented to His Majesty. Upon the two latter we have already given you instructions.

*Answer to the letter in the Political Department,
dated 31st May, 1794.*

(1) Mentions the date of the last dispatch.

(2-3) Polygars.

(4) Referring to a representation from the Nabob of Arcot of the conduct of the Commanding Officer of the troops at Trichinopoly.

(5) Referring to their correspondence with Fort St. George for the latest intelligence from Mysore &c.

(6-7) Mentioning an error in one of the counterparts of the late treaty with Tippoo delivered by the Nizam, but considered of no consequence.

(8) Of the sense entertained by Tippoo of the kind treatment of his sons.

(9) Concerning a report of the Peshwa's intention to meet Bajeerow, the son of the late Raganaut Row; and another report that ill will between the Poonah Minister and Azim ul Omrah had arisen to the height of putting a stop to the continuance of letters.

(10 to 14) Relative to the points in litigation between the Nizam and the Peshwa, and the instructions to the Resident at Hyderabad in consequence.

(15-16) Nizam's *peshcush*.

(17-18) Referring to Sir Charles Malet's correspondence &c. relative to the cattle, packsaddles, and other articles provided by him in the late war.

90. Needs no reply.

91. We have already referred you to our directions upon the general subject of the polygars, contained in our Political Dispatch to the Government of Madras of the 10th June.

92. The letters which we have hitherto received from the Government of Madras are silent upon this subject.

93. Need no reply.

94. We have already signified our approbation of the instructions given from time to time to the Residents at Poonah and Hyderabad on the subject of the dispute between the Nizam and the Peshwa.

95. Already replied to.

96. Having perused the papers referred to upon this subject, we concur with you in the opinion you have formed of the zeal and fidelity of Sir Charles Malet's conduct in the provision of sundry articles for the army during the late war.

(19) Forwarding copies of the late correspondence with the Resident at Lucknow which contains nothing of any consequence.

97. Needs no reply.

(20) Burmahs.

(21-22) Assam.

98. Already replied to.

*Answer to letter in the Political Department,
dated 18th August, 1794.*

(1) Transmitting copies of the last dispatches.

99. Needs no reply.

(2 to 6) Zemindarry of Vizianagrum.

100. Will be replied to in our Revenue Dispatch to Fort St. George.

(7-8) Rajah of Ramnad.

101. Already replied to in our Political Dispatch to that Presidency.

(9) Mentions the orders that have been issued for destroying the whole of the public buildings at Pondicherry that could be serviceable in the re-establishing a military force there.

102. We very much approve of the orders that were issued upon this subject.

(10 to 12) Relative to the conduct of the Bombay Mayor's Court in issuing a writ of summons to two subjects of the Maratta State residing at Poonah.

103. Already replied to.

(13-14) Concerning the doubts which had arisen at Bombay upon the legality of trying British subjects by any other mode than by the courts established by the laws of England.

(15) Mentions their having authorized the establishment of two Commercial Residencies at Mahe and Calicut.

104. These subjects will be included in our general reply to the voluminous papers that have been transmitted to us relative to the provinces of Malabar.

(16-17) Transmitting sundry papers received from Bombay relative to concessions made to the northern Rajahs of the Malabar provinces by the late Supravisor Mr. Palmer.

105. Replied to in our Political Dispatch to Fort St. George.

(18 to 22) Captain Doveton's mission to Tippoo, his personal allowances &c.

(23 to 28) Dispute between the Peshwa and the Nizam and the instructions in consequence.

106. We have in our last dispatch in this department (as before observed) expressed our approbation of the general tenor of your instructions to the Residents at Hyderabad and Poonah on the subject of the dispute between the Peshwa and the Nizam. We are sorry to observe by a letter from Sir Charles Malet of the 2nd of January last, addressed to our Chairman, that a considerable Mahratta force had actually taken the field, and the various members of that Confederacy were preparing to join them. Sir Charles Malet however gives us some reason to hope that matters may still be accommodated between the parties without coming to hostilities.

(29 to 39) Relative to a negotiation intended to counteract a supposed design of the Mahrattas to possess themselves of the province of Cambay, as well as, under certain circumstances, to obtain a transfer of this port and town, with the territories attached to it, to the Company.

(40) Mentions that Dowlat Row Scindia has expressly signified his wishes for the continuance of the Residency.

(41-42) Referring to their correspondence with the Resident at Lucknow for information relative to affairs in the Vizier's country.

(43 to 50) Mentions the death of the Nabob Fyzoola Khan, and the measures in consequence.

107. We concur entirely in the propriety of your reasoning upon this subject, and approve of the instructions you have given to the Government of Bombay, and to Sir Charles Malet.

108. Already replied to.

109. We entirely agree in the propriety of your reasoning and decision on the subject of the *jaghire* which the late Nabob Fyzoola Khan held in Rohilcund, and approve of the advice which was given to the Nabob Vizier relative to the adjustment to be made with his successor Mahomed Ally Khan.

(51) Concerning an application made by Shah Allum for the assistance of the Nabob Vizier to relieve

110. We have already signified our approbation of your having directed the Resident at Lucknow to be

him from his present embarrassments, and restore his authority.

governed by the instructions which his predecessor received from Lord Cornwallis in all cases similar to that stated in this paragraph.

(52-53) Assam.

(54 to 57) Burmahs.

(58) Mentions the arrival of a *vakeel* from Rajah Cheit Sing, but that he was not admitted in such character.

(59) Transmitting information relative to Commodore Mitchell's squadron.

111. Already replied to.

112. Need no reply.

113. We have already signified our approbation of your decision relative to the succession of Mahomed Ally Khan to the *jaghire* held by his late father Fyzoola Khan in Rohilcund, as advised in your Political Dispatch of the 18th August, 1794. And having perused with great attention the papers which accompanied your subsequent dispatch of the 28th of that month, we must extend that approbation in the fullest manner to your resolutions and proceedings in consequence of the severe treatment of Mahomed Ally, and the usurpation of his brother Golaum Mahomed Khan. Although we have not yet received from you any account of the actual commencement of hostilities between the Company's troops and those of the Rohillas, the Government of Bombay have lately transmitted to us, overland, copy of the *Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary* of the 7th November, 1794, containing an account of the action with the Rohillas on the 26th of the preceding month. And notwithstanding we have to regret the loss of several gallant officers who fell upon that occasion, we have great pleasure in observing that the victory obtained by the bravery of the troops under the command of Sir Robert Abercromby appears to have been decisive. Judging from the propriety and energy of your former proceedings in this unfortunate business, we make no doubt that the final settlement thereof will equally redound to the credit of your Government, and to the future peace and security of the countries under the dominion of the Nabob Vizier.

We are,
Your affectionate friends,

Step. Lushington / D. Scott / Lionel
Darell / Thos. T. Metcalfe / Thos.
Parry / Abra'm Roberts / Simon Fraser /
Hugh Inglis / W. Davaynes / James
Irwin / Cha. Grant / George Smith / Paul
Lemesurier / Joseph Cotton / George
Tatam.

London,
the 3d July, 1795.

(Received on 23rd February, 1796,
per Fort William.)

ENCLOSURE

(Vide paragraph 65)

To His Excellency the Vizier Ul Momalik Hindostan Assuf Jah Nowab
Assuf Ud Dowlah Yehcha Khan Behaudur Huzzubber Jung,
Soubadar. of Oude &ca., &ca.

1. We have been made happy in the receipt of the letter which Your Excellency addressed to us on the departure of the Most Noble the Marquis Cornwallis, our late Governor General. In truth the interest which His Lordship appears to have had in Your Excellency's prosperity might well call forth your acknowledgement th[anking] in high terms of commendation. His Lordship has conducted himself towards Your Excellency as to a friend in whose prosperity he was peculiarly interested, and the salutary advice he has from time to time offered Your Excellency respecting the general management of your affairs will have its proper impression on Your Excellency's mind. With equal confidence may Your Excellency rely on the kind disposition towards you of Sir John Shore; and every succeeding Governor General will be instructed to consider you as the friend of the Company. It will readily occur to Your Excellency's enlightened mind that the best return you can make to such a succession of kindness is to incline a favorable ear to the representations that have been submitted to you; and we are anxious to hear that Your Excellency has concluded the necessary arrangements for the internal administration of your country, and the management of your finances, which have been so wisely suggested from a real regard to your true interest, both by the Marquis Cornwallis and Sir John Shore.

2. We have received information of the hostilities that have been committed in consequence of the conduct of the Rohilla Golaum Mahomed Khan. Although we cannot cease to regret the loss of so many brave officers and men who fell in defence of Your Excellency's rights, we derive great consolation from the confidence you reposed in our Governor General, upon that alarming occasion, by your declining to undertake any measure without his assistance, or to form any determination without first having his sentiments. And we are happy to find that in consequence of this reliance on the Company and of your acquiescence in the measures that were at that time recommended to you, the credit and dignity of your exalted situation have been firmly supported in the eyes of all Hindostan. Nothing will afford us greater satisfaction than to hear from time to time from our Governor General that this confidence in your best friends, the Company, continues unimpaired, and that Your Excellency's country has been rendered happy and flourishing by the adoption of wise and salutary regulations. You may then recline with security in the shade of the Company's protection.

3. In testimony of our regard for Your Excellency we have caused our great seal to be affixed in the city of London this 3d day of July in the year of our Lord 1795.

SECRET LETTER DATED 7 FEBRUARY 1793

Warning of the impending war with France.

SECRET DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable the Governor General in Council at Fort William,
Bengal.

1. The vigorous preparations now making here, and the augmentation of His Majesty's land and sea forces now going on, indicate a speedy, if not an immediate, war with the French nation.¹ It is therefore necessary, and we accordingly direct, that you make such a disposition of the forces under your Presidency as will effectually enable you not only to repel any sudden attack, but that you may be in perfect readiness to proceed against the French settlements on your side of India, the instant you shall be advised either of a declaration of war, or of the actual commencement of hostilities.

2. It is necessary also that you should be fully prepared to co-operate, if required, in any expedition which His Majesty's Ministers may think proper to undertake against the French Islands, or against any of the French settlements in India.

3. But as we have no particular instructions to give you at present as to military operations, we can only recommend the safety of the Company's possessions to your most vigilant attention.

4. You will caution the factory at Canton to be on their guard, if a convenient opportunity offers.

East India House,
London,
7th February, 1793.

(Received on 9 September, 1793,
per Rodney).

We are,
Your affectionate friends,

F. Baring / J. Smith Burgess /
John Roberts.

SECRET LETTER DATED 12 MARCH 1793

Instructions for the supply of saltpetre.

DRRAFT of a letter proposed by the Secret Committee of the East India Company to be sent to Sir John Shore, Bart., Governor General of Bengal.

Under date the 20th December last, you were advised by our Secretary that in the then critical situation of affairs, it was of the greatest importance

that the orders for providing and sending home saltpetre should be fully complied with; and we expect in consequence, from all the Presidencies, by the ships of the ensuing season, at least thirty thousand bags or two thousand tons. But, as a large and early supply of that article is now become more requisite in consequence of the war, and the Company's present reduced stock, which is inadequate to the probable wants of the public, our disappointment in not receiving any by the *Ganges*, and the probability of further disappointment in consequence of the permission to load sugars on the returning ships in preference, and the article being besides extremely scarce all over Europe, we therefore direct that you cause to be shipped on board each of the early returning ships four hundred tons, or more if possible, of saltpetre, filling up the remainder of their loading with light goods, and that two or more of them be dispatched to Europe as early as possible after the receipt of this letter, with directions to keep company during the voyage, and to be at all times prepared for defence in case of attack. We shall use our endeavours to procure a convoy to meet them at St. Helena; but if upon their arrival at that island no convoy should be there, we would in that case have them proceed in company together to Europe, observing the same caution for their mutual safety, provided they shall not receive direction to the contrary from the Governor of St. Helena.

East India House,
12th March, 1793.

Whitehall, 12th March, 1793.

Approved by the Board.

Signed March, 1793, by
F. Baring / Smith Burgess / J. Roberts.

Henry Dundas / Fred. Campbell /
Thos. Steele.

SECRET LETTER DATED 14 OCTOBER 1793

Indent for san and pat.

DRAFT of a letter proposed by the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors to be sent to the Governor General and Council of Bengal.

1. The Court of Directors have lately had under their examination the samples of hemp and flax sent from your Presidency in the course of the past season. From the appearance of the sort called *soon*, though supposed to be the superior kind, it is conjectured that it will not serve for the purpose of cordage or of sail cloth, two of the principal sources of consumption. But though no sanguine expectations are to be formed of this article, the Court have nevertheless determined that for the purpose of giving it a fair trial a quantity shall be ordered equal to one hundred tons.

2. Of the sample called *paat* more favorable mention can be made. Some of the most eminent dealers declare that it is not hemp, but a species of flax superior in quality to any known in the trade. You will accordingly receive directions by the ships of the season for procuring one thousand tons of this sample. We, therefore, give you this early notice of the intentions of the Court of Directors herein, that you may take such previous measures for the purchase of this quantity as that the same may be provided on the most reasonable terms possible. The price at which the Resident at Radnagore states it may be shipped is equal to £6-12-6 per ton. We trust, therefore, that this timely intimation will enable you to purchase at that price. But should the demand for exportation at first increase the price even to £10 per ton, it will still leave a considerable profit on the prime cost after allowing for freight, charges of merchandize, damage, &c.

East India House,
14th October, 1793.

Whitehall, 14 October, 1793.
Approved by the Board.

Signed on the 23rd October, 1793,
by W. Devaynes / T. Cheap /
John Roberts.

Henry Dundas / W. Pitt /
R. B. Jenkinson.

10

SECRET LETTER DATED 23 OCTOBER 1793

Preparations ordered for an expedition against Mauritius and Bourbon by April 1794.

TO the Governor General and Council of Bengal.

1. His Majesty has judged it expedient that measures should immediately be taken for the reduction of the French possessions in India, particularly the islands of Mauritius and Bourbon.

2. On a due consideration of the subject with reference to the situation of these islands, it is conceived that a force consisting of five thousand rank and file of European infantry, about one thousand lascars, and two battalions of sepoys may be sufficient for that purpose.* This force, we desire, you will collect as speedily as possible at Madras, in order that it may be ready to leave that place on or about the first week in April at furthest; and if the whole of that force cannot, upon a due consideration of the general situation of affairs at the moment, be furnished by that Presidency, without risk or

* The following is entered in the margin on a later date: By a subsequent letter from the Secret Committee dated 26 November, 1793, which is annexed, 300 European artillery were directed to be added to this force.

inconvenience, which probably will appear to you to be the case, you will naturally have recourse to the other Presidencies, taking care however that it may be collected, and be ready to embark, at the time before mentioned, unless from some change of affairs in India, it should appear to you dangerous to the Company's settlements that so considerable a force should be withdrawn from them.

3. His Majesty intends to intrust the conduct of this expedition to Major General Sir William Medows¹ and Colonel Stuart.² The latter, who will be the bearer of this dispatch, takes his passage on board His Majesty's ship the *Diomedé* to Madras, and to whom we refer you for any explanations respecting the opinions entertained by His Majesty's Ministers on the subject of this enterprize. Our dispatches in duplicate will be forwarded to you by another ship of war, both of which will, for the present, be employed for the protection of the Company's settlements and trade in that part of the world. Sir William Medows will follow in the course of next month in one of the ships of war to be appointed to escort the Company's ships intended to be employed on this expedition, and to assist in the operations required to be performed by the Naval Department. The Company's ships will have on board the provisions and stores specified in the paper annexed^{*}; and any other articles which you may judge necessary on a communication with Colonel Stuart, and such other persons as you may think it right to consult, you will order to be furnished from India.

4. It is our particular desire that you should give directions that an account may be kept of every article of expense which may be incurred by the Company for the purposes of this expedition, and to conform in every respect to the directions contained in our letter to you of the 21st May, 1790, with regard to the mode of defraying the amount of such expenses.

5. As the choice of an able engineer will very much contribute to the success of the expedition, and as the engineer establishment upon the Coast is not so numerous as at Bengal, we direct that you select from the engineers at either of the Presidencies such officer as you shall deem duly qualified for this service.

6. That the force upon the Coast may suffer as little diminution as possible in the native corps, it is our wish that the sepoys to be employed in this expedition should be drafted from the army at your Presidency, as their prejudices to a sea voyage are, in a great measure, removed, and it is likely that a sufficient number will voluntarily enter upon the service.

East India House,
London,
23rd October, 1793.

(Per *Diomedé*.)

We are,
Your affectionate friends,

W. Devaynes / Thos. Cheap /
John Roberts.

^{*}The paper is not traceable in the records of the National Archives of India.

SECRET LETTER DATED 26 NOVEMBER 1793

Additional 300 European artillery to be raised for the expedition against Mauritius and Bourbon.

TO the Governor General in Council of Bengal.

In addition to the force mentioned in our letter of the 23rd ultimo which is to be got in readiness for the purposes of the intended expedition against the French islands of Bourbon and Mauritius, we have to acquaint you that three hundred European artillery men are likewise to be provided for that expedition. We have further to acquaint you that, agreeable to the recommendation of His Majesty's Ministers, we have appointed Mr. John Pringle of the Bombay Civil Establishment, who is now in England, to proceed to the Cape of Good Hope as Commissary for the purpose of procuring such articles of provisions at the Cape as may be indented for by the Commanding Officer to be left at those islands, in the event of the expedition proving successful.

We are,
Your affectionate friends,

East India House,
London, 26th November, 1793.

W. Devaynes / Thos. Cheap /
John Roberts.

SECRET LETTER DATED 31 JANUARY 1794

Signals to be observed by British ships on approaching St. Helena.

TO the Governor General for the time being at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We the Secret Committee of the East India Company have furnished all the Commanders of this season with orders that after making St. Helena homeward bound, they do bring to at a proper distance to windward of the island, and send a boat on shore to the Governor with an officer acquainting him who they are, ordering such officer to return on board forthwith that they may know whether they can with safety go into the road; and on their making sail for it they are to shew this signal, *vizt.*, hoist a blue flag with a white pendant over it at the fore-topgallant mast head, the sail being furled.

2. Should there remain to be dispatched by you any ships of a former season whose Commanders cannot have received the above signal, you are to communicate it to them, with an injunction to keep the same entirely secret.

3. The Lords of the Admiralty having established a set of signals dated the 2nd December, 1793, for the King's and Company's ships knowing each other, we transmit copy thereof, and direct that you furnish the Commanders of such of our ships as may not have received them with copies thereof, with the strictest injunctions for keeping them as secret as possible, and directing them on their ships' return to England, to deliver them to our Secretary.

East India House,
London, the 31st January, 1794.

(*Per Lascelles.*)

We are,
Your affectionate friends,

W. Devaynes/Thos. Cheap/
John Roberts.

ENCLOSURE

*Private signals to be observed by His Majesty's ships, and those of the
East India Company, settled 2nd December, 1793.*

By Day

The ship to windward is to hoist an English St. George's ensign at the fore-topgallant mast head, and a Union Jack at the mizen-topgallant mast head.

The ship to leeward is to answer by hoisting an English red ensign at the main-topgallant mast head, and a Union Jack at the fore-topgallant mast head.

By Night

The ship to windward to shew *three* lights one under the other at the mizen peak.

The ship to leeward to answer by shewing *four* lights of equal height where best seen.

The ship to windward is then to hoist *two* lights at the mizen peak, and *one* at the ensign staff.

And the ship to leeward is to answer by hoisting *two* lights at the ensign staff, and *two* lights at the mizen peak.

When within hail the ship who first hails shall ask,

What ship is that?

The other shall answer,

King George the Third.

Then the ship that first hailed shall reply,
May God preserve.

The other shall then answer,
Old England's constitution.

A true copy.

W. Ramsay,
Secretary.

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SECRET LETTER DATED 31 JANUARY 1794

Convoy system to be strictly observed—Instructions and route for ships returning to Europe without a convoy.

TO the Governor General for the time being of Fort William in Bengal.

1. We the Secret Committee of the East India Company, considering the present very critical situation of public affairs, do hereby order and direct that you give positive instructions to the Commanders of such of our ships as may be dispatched by you at the same time to sail together; and on joining any of our returning ships, that they do not, on any account, part company on pain of our highest displeasure; also on their falling in with any of His Majesty's ships, that they fail not to embrace their protection, and on no account to separate from them; for any Commander presuming to deviate from these injunctions, or being wanting in due obedience to the observance of signals or instructions settled by the senior Commander for general safety, he will certainly experience the severest resentment of the Court of Directors.

2. As your local situation must afford you much better information of the enemy's manœuvres in the Indian and China seas than we can have, we shall rely on you to give the Commanders of our ships such secret instructions as shall appear most expedient to you for their safety, only recommending that they may be dispatched in divisions.

3. In case of your dispatch of any of our ships for Europe without convoy, you are to give the Commanders instructions, not to be opened until they shall be within one hundred leagues of the Cape of Good Hope, directing them to keep far distant from the same, at least fifty leagues, and to make the best of their way to St. Helena, where they will meet with further instructions, and probably with a convoy home; but should they by an enemy be prevented going in there, and be in want of water for their homeward voyage, they are to make the best of their way to the Island Fernando Loronha [Noronha] on the coast of Brazil, using the same precaution as on approaching St. Helena; where having watered, they are to proceed from thence in company with any of our ships they may find there, in divisions of not less than three ships (provided after waiting a reasonable time such a number shall be there) but as many more as may be ready; and passing forty leagues to the westward of the Azores Islands, they are to proceed into the latitude of $53\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N, run

down their easting in that latitude until they make the coast of Ireland, and then proceed for the port of Galway, there securing their ships in the best manner possible, and giving us immediate notice of their arrival.

East India House,
London, the 31st January, 1794.

We are,
Your affectionate friends,

(Received on 17th October, 1794, W. Devaynes/Thos. Cheap/John Roberts.
per Busbridge.)

14

SECRET LETTER DATED 8 MARCH 1794

Prevention of shipping of saltpetre on foreign ships.

TO the Governor General and Council, Fort William, Bengal.

At this critical period we think proper to direct that, until you receive our further orders, you will prevent the shipping of saltpetre on ships or vessels belonging to foreigners.

East India House,
London, 8th March, 1794.

We are,
Your affectionate friends,

(Received on 13th September, 1794, W. Devaynes./ Thos. Cheap / John Roberts.
per Valentine.)

15

SECRET LETTER DATED 21 MARCH 1794

The expedition against Mauritius and Bourbon to be postponed unless the local situation justified immediate action.

THE Governor General in Council at Bengal.

1. In consequence of the time that has unavoidably elapsed since the period originally fixed upon for the departure of the intended expedition against the Mauritius, we have been informed that a considerable alteration has taken place in the minds of His Majesty's Ministers concerning the expedition in as far as respects the naval force to be sent from home for this purpose, and it has been further agreed that one of the Company's ships shall be employed on that service on account of the lateness of the season in order to prevent any disappointment in their timely return to Great Britain with cargoes from the places of their ultimate destination.

2. If however in consequence of the preparations you were ordered by a previous dispatch to make, you shall be of opinion, after consulting with the King's Commanding Officers, that the same can be undertaken, notwithstanding the lateness of the season, with any reasonable prospect of success, and that you shall have engaged such a number of vessels, in addition to His Majesty's ships which may be at Madras on the arrival of the expected convoy, as shall be thought sufficient for the transportation of the necessary troops and stores, it is the wish of His Majesty's Ministers that the expedition should be proceeded on, but as His Majesty has been pleased to countermand the orders which had been given to Sir William Medows for proceeding on this service, the command of the expedition must be placed in the hands of Colonel Stuart. But should you deem the season too far advanced for such an undertaking, and the situation of affairs in India at the commencement of the ensuing season should be such as to leave the same prospect open to you of obtaining possession of the said islands, His Majesty's Ministers leave you to the free and full exercise of your discretion either to undertake the expedition or not as you may judge advisable.

3. In your determination however upon this point you will of course seriously consider whether after such a force as may be competent to this expedition [has been provided for], a sufficient European force will remain in India for the protection and security of the Company's settlements, which ought to be the primary object of your attention and care. In the event of the postponing the expedition under the conditions we have now suggested, the provisions and stores sent out from home on the Company's ships for the expedition must be landed, and such as are of a perishable nature immediately disposed of to the best advantage. The ships will probably take their departure from hence in about a fortnight. In case the expedition should be relinquished altogether, the *Harriot*, which at the desire of His Majesty's Ministers was purchased and fitted out as an hospital ship, is to be sent to Bengal in order that the Governor General in Council may return her to Europe with such a cargo of goods as they may deem it convenient to lade on her.

East India House,
London,
21st March, 1794.

Your affectionate friends,

(Signed) W. Devaynes / Thos. Cheap / Jn. Roberts.

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SECRET LETTER DATED 8 APRIL 1794

Disposal of provisions collected for the Mauritius expedition—Demolition of certain defence works in Pondicherry.

SECRET DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable the Governor General and Council, Fort William, Bengal.

1. We enclose you copy of our dispatch of the 21st ultimo on the subject of the intended expedition against the French islands of

of the Military Board at Fort St. George be deputed to Pondicherry for the purpose of ascertaining how far the object has been accomplished. Upon the report of this committee, we also direct that the Government of Madras do give such orders as they may deem necessary for the complete demolition of the works.

East India House,
London, 8th April, 1794.

We are,
Your affectionate friends,

(Received on 17th October, 1794, W. Devaynes / Thos. Cheap / John Roberts.
per Busbridge.)

17

SECRET LETTER DATED 24 MAY 1794

Grand Pré sent to India to assist in the expedition against Mauritius—His allowances.

SECRET DEPARTMENT

TO the Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. His Majesty's Ministers having thought proper to avail themselves of the services of Mr. De Grand Pré, a French officer of talents and much local information, on the intended expedition against the French islands of Mauritius and Bourbon, we have, at the recommendation of the Right Honorable the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, provided him with a passage to India at the Company's expence on board the ship *Pitt*; and we direct, at the further recommendation of that Right Honorable Board, that from the time of his arrival in India to that of his proceeding on the expedition, you make him an allowance of two hundred rupees per month; that if the expedition shall not be undertaken, Mr. Grand Pré is to be allowed a free passage from India to England, and on his arrival here, he is to receive a gratuity of one hundred pounds. But you are to observe that, should he proceed on the expedition, the remuneration for his services is to depend on their extent, and is to be determined in this country, agreeably to the report that may be received of the nature of those services.

2. We transmit you, enclosed, a copy of a paper prepared by Mr. Grand Pré upon the mode of attack of the French islands.

East India House,
London, the 24th May, 1794.

We are,
Your affectionate friends,

W. Devaynes / J. Hunter / John Manship.

N.B. Mr. Grand Pré will furnish the above mentioned paper on his arrival in Bengal.

(Duplicate received on
8 December, 1794,
per Thetis.)

SECRET LETTER DATED 14 JUNE 1794

Losses inflicted by French privateers—The conquest of the French islands to be undertaken only if the security of the Company's possessions in India permitted.

SECRET DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable the Governor General and Council of Bengal.

1. From the copy herewith transmitted of the intelligence we have recently received from Mr. Brooke, the Governor of St. Helena, you will be informed of the depredations which have been committed on the eastern trade of Great Britain by ships of war and other armed vessels from the Mauritius; and though we have reason to hope that the naval force which has been sent from this kingdom to the East Indies within the last eighteen months will give such effectual aid to the operations of the armament fitted out from Bengal as will, in a great measure, prevent a repetition of the commercial losses sustained from the active exertions of the enemy in the eastern seas, yet, as we cannot but feel that as long as the islands of Mauritius and Bourbon shall continue in their possession our trade will be but imperfectly secured, we are desirous of impressing again on your attention the importance of reducing those islands to the dominion of His Majesty.

2. In stating to you however our earnest wishes on this point, we mean not to weaken the force of the reference we have already made to your discretion; nor do we mean to urge you to exertions that in the present state of the European force in your settlements and of the little prospect there is of its being speedily recruited may appear to you in any degree incompatible with a due regard to the security of our Indian possessions.

East India House,
London, 14th June, 1794.

We are,
Your affectionate friends,

(Triplicate received on 14th June, 1794,
per Lascelles.)

W. Devaynes / J. Hunter.

ENCLOSURE

*Letter from John Pringle Esq. at the Cape of Good Hope, dated
24th February, 1794.*

The Honorable the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors of the Honorable United English East India Company.

Honorable Sirs,

1. I did myself the honor of writing to you pretty fully (in duplicate) on the 20th instant. A sudden opportunity again offering, I embrace it to

transmit you the following accounts, which I hope are much exaggerated. The list of the ships was obtained from the Supra Cargo of a Tuscan ship, the other account from an American schooner which anchored here for a few hours last Saturday.

Names of the frigates and privateers fitted out from the Isle of France.

			Guns	Men
<i>La Cybele</i>	...	...	44	560
<i>La Prudente</i>	...	...	36	500
<i>Le Du Quatrouin</i>	...	...	40	570
<i>La Villa Bourdeaux</i>	...	...	40	600
<i>La Resolue</i>	...	...	30	400
<i>La Modeste</i>	...	...	28	350
<i>Le Mergein¹</i>	...	...	30	400
<i>Le Grand Dumourier</i>	...	...	32	400
<i>Le Genl. Dumourier</i>	...	...	32	400
<i>La Liberte</i>	...	...	32	400
<i>La Fayette</i>	...	...	24	300
<i>L'Hirondelle</i>	...	...	16	250
<i>L'Isle de France</i>	...	...	24	300
<i>Le Leger</i>	...	...	16	200
<i>Le Cerf</i>	...	...	18	250
<i>Le Volcan</i>	...	...	20	300
<i>Le Mutine</i>	...	...	16	150
				taken at
				Ceylon
<i>L'Egalite</i>	...	...	20	350

Besides two small cutters sent as spies to the Malabar Coast.

Prizes carried into Mauritius.

6 English—2 Dutch—2 Arabs—2 Portugeuze—1 American—1 Dane pilaged near Ceylon, and 40 bales of English goods taken out of him—the lascars of all those ships were sold as slaves, with a number of Malays taken out of the Dutch ships.

Account given by the American schooner Polly and Sally of Salum near Boston, Geo., Crownshield Master.

2. At the beginning of January three frigates of 40 guns, and 600 men each, sailed, in company with the *Princess Royal*, then fitted out as a man of war (supposed to carry 50 guns) against Batavia. There are 25 privateers from 30 to 16 guns each, well¹ manned with the crews of more than 100 sail of merchantmen, laid up. The cruising ground of the men of war is from

the Strait of Sundah to Malacca, of the privateers from Muscat to Ceylon; some of the fast sailers cruize in the Bay of Bengal. During the nine days the schooner lay at Mauritius six prizes arrived from 300 to 600 tons each. One ship took 20 Dutch vessels. About six days ago they saw a very large ship off Algoa Bay, which was not inclined to speak to them. The soldiery, and inhabitants included, who are under arms for the defence of the island, do not amount to more than 4,000 men. Provisions are very scarce: when the schooner sailed, there were not more than for two months in store.

3. Such is the information I have received; but with respect to its authenticity I must leave that to be estimated by yourselves.

I am &c., &c.,

Cape of Good Hope,
24th February, 1794.

Signed John Pringle.

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SECRET LETTER DATED 20 FEBRUARY 1795

Permission to the Governor General in Council to raise funds for investment purposes.

TO the Honorable the Governor General in Council of Bengal.

1. It appearing by your letter in the Commercial Department of the 18th of August last, received overland, that your allotment of funds to be provided at your Presidency in 1795, to be returned on the ships taken up in the present season, will not prove sufficient to answer the expectations of the Court of Directors in their order of investment dated the 2d July last, we take the earliest opportunity of acquainting you that in order to prevent disappointment herein, the Court have come to a resolution (of which they will advise you by the first regular dispatch) of empowering you to raise a sum of money to supply the deficiency, not exceeding twenty lacks of rupees, either by loan or by drawing bills upon them at the most favorable rate of exchange that can be obtained.

2. In the appropriation of this addition to your funds, which must be confined solely to investment purposes, it is the direction of the Court that their order for piece goods be completed to its full extent, namely, eight hundred sixty seven thousand and forty pieces, and they estimate that this may require about nine lacks in addition to your present allotment. You will therefore take the earliest and most effectual measures for complying with the Court's directions in this very important article.

London,
20th February, 1795.

We are,
Your affectionate friends,

(Received on 7th July, 1796,
per Panther.)

W. Devaynes / John Hunter / John Manship.

151 D

To the Honorable the Governor General
in Council of Bengal.

I have to acquaint you, that His Majesty
has put under the Orders of the Secretary of State,
any Naval Force that, in the present War, may be
employed in the Indian Seas; & you are to give positive
directions to the Commanders of any Armed Vessels in
the Service of the Company in India, to obey such Orders
as they may at any time receive from the Commanders
of the British Squadron or Ships on that Station.

As this is exactly conformable to what
has always been practised, we think it necessary
to give the above directions for the purpose of
ensuring the certainty of our operations & united
efforts.

East India House
London
22nd March 1756

Your affectionate Friend,

W^m Desaugers

John Desaugers

John Desaugers

SECRET LETTER DATED 3 MARCH 1795

Company's ships in the Indian waters to obey the orders of the Commanders of the King's ships.

TO the Honorable the Governor General in Council of Bengal.

1. We are to acquaint you that His Majesty has put under the orders of the Secretary of State any naval force that in the present war may be employed in the Indian Seas; and you are to give positive directions to the commanders of any armed vessels in the service of the Company in India to obey such orders as they may at any time receive from the commanders of the King's squadron or ships on that station.

2. Although this is exactly conformable to what has always been practiced, we think it necessary to give the above directions for the purpose of ensuring the certainty of co-operation and united efforts.

East India House,
London, 3rd March, 1795.

We are,
Your affectionate friends,

(Received on 7th July, 1796,
per Panther.)

W. Devaynes / John Hunter / John Manship.

SECRET LETTER DATED 7 JULY 1795

Instructions for the supply of grain to relieve scarcity in Europe.

DRRAFT of letter from the Secret Committee to the Government of Bengal dated 7 July 1795 and signed by S. Lushington, D. Scott and W. Devaynes.

1. The present high price of corn and of provisions in general in Great Britain, and the general state of Europe in this momentous particular, induce us to consider of every probable method that may contribute to the relief of our country. We have, therefore, upon mature deliberation, determined to authorise you to give the utmost encouragement to the merchants in India for importing grain of all sorts into Great Britain in country ships or in foreign ships, provided proper caution is used to prevent it being carried elsewhere instead of Great Britain. Ships of all descriptions are at present allowed to import grain and provisions free of duty; and we have authority to say that the

Government here will propose to Parliament to continue this permission, as far as respects importation from India, for at least one year from this date. Ships that engage in this trade shall be allowed to take from hence cargoes in return upon the same terms as we have already directed respecting country ships that may be taken up at our several Presidencies for the bringing home of our investment in case of a deficiency of tonnage in our own regular ships.

2. Although we flatter ourselves that a considerable quantity of tonnage may be procured by you from the country trade, Americans etc., yet, to assist all in our power, we mean to take up here as many coppered ships as can be found ready to proceed in one month. We fear the number will be few; but that no disappointment may take place in case of our not procuring sufficient, we direct that you secure, as soon after the receipt of this as you see proper, ten thousand tons of wheat and rice in equal quantities; or, if there is not so much wheat procurable as five thousand tons, that you secure what you can get, and make up the deficiency in rice.

3. As you have such a variety of qualities of rice of the value, as we understand, of from two rupees per bag of 164 lbs to six rupees, it may be necessary to mention that the most proper for our purpose must be what is styled in India the best cargo rice, supposed to cost generally from 3 to 3½ rupees per bag. It should, of course, be of such quality as is best suited for long keeping, and a trifle in the first cost should not be considered when put in competition with securing rice of real good quality. An equal attention will be due to the wheat. That article, however, where produced in warm climates, keeps much longer, in general, than that which is the produce of northern climes.

4. Should we not be able to procure tonnage here and the quantity which you can procure in India does not prove sufficient, the grain purchased by you can be resold upon your receiving our future orders.

5. To meet our views completely, the grain should arrive here in March; and though supplies at any period before harvest 1796 must be highly acceptable, you will keep in view that the sooner you can throw in a supply by the above means, the more consequential will the relief be. Although we should suppose that general advertisement would be the most effectual means to secure a large supply, yet, as some of your merchants trade upon a very great scale, it may perhaps be more advisable to secure a large quantity of grain and tonnage by private contract, previous to your making these, our wishes, public; of this you will use your discretion according to circumstances.

6. Should you see it a necessary encouragement to the merchants to lend them the money on the grain payable here at a moderate exchange, you will of course do it, or grant them any other facility you may deem proper. We have given you in this despatch our ideas upon the subject, but the execution thereof we leave entirely to your judgement, guided as it must be by local circumstances.

7. We shall send copies of this dispatch to the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, and direct them to hold out similar encouragement to the merchants there; but at present we see no reason to authorise them to make any purchases.

8. We enclose for your information a price current of wheat and rice for the last six years as also the present price of pease.

9. If common cargo rice is at the usual price of about three rupees per bag, ten thousand tons even of a superior quality would but little exceed in cost forty five thousand pounds sterling, and if one half was wheat, supposed to cost generally about 274 rupees (sic) per bag, the amount of the whole would be still less. We trust, however, that you will be as economical in regard to your contracts as is fitting with the momentous occasion that calls forth this dispatch.

10. The subject matter of this dispatch was suggested by us, and we directed the same to be carried into execution by the Secret Committee in the terms above written.

November 5th, 1795.

Henry Dundas / W. Pitt.

The prices of wheat as furnished by the corn exchange for the last 5 years appear as follows:—

				Bushel at 60 lb. weight.		
				Per bushel		
	sh	d		sh	d	sh d
1790 from 36 to 61 per quarter—average	51	10		or	6	5¾
1791 „ 36 to 52 —do—	45	8		„	5	8½
1792 „ 36 to 53 —do—	42	8		„	5	4
1793 „ 32 to 55 —do—	46	0		„	5	9
1794 „ 45 to 60 —do—	52	4		„	6	6½

The present market price, in July 1795, is 80:0 or 10:0

For the last 5 years the prices of Carolina rice are stated to be as follows:—

	sh	d	sh d		sh	d
1790 from 16:9 to 17:0 per ct. average	16	3		per cwt.		
1791 „ 15:6 to 15:9 —do—	15	7		„ „		
1792 „ 14:6 to 17:0 —do—	15	10		„ „		
1793 „ 15:6 to 18:6 —do—	17	1		„ „		
1794 „ 16:0 to 23:6 —do—	19	8		„ „		

1795. The present price of rice in the market is from 32s to 40s per cwt. Pease are now selling at 7 shillings per bushel, July 1795.

Government here will propose to Parliament to continue this permission, as far as respects importation from India, for at least one year from this date. Ships that engage in this trade shall be allowed to take from hence cargoes in return upon the same terms as we have already directed respecting country ships that may be taken up at our several Presidencies for the bringing home of our investment in case of a deficiency of tonnage in our own regular ships.

2. Although we flatter ourselves that a considerable quantity of tonnage may be procured by you from the country trade, Americans etc., yet, to assist all in our power, we mean to take up here as many coppered ships as can be found ready to proceed in one month. We fear the number will be few; but that no disappointment may take place in case of our not procuring sufficient, we direct that you secure, as soon after the receipt of this as you see proper, ten thousand tons of wheat and rice in equal quantities; or, if there is not so much wheat procurable as five thousand tons, that you secure what you can get, and make up the deficiency in rice.

3. As you have such a variety of qualities of rice of the value, as we understand, of from two rupees per bag of 164 lbs to six rupees, it may be necessary to mention that the most proper for our purpose must be what is styled in India the best cargoe rice, supposed to cost generally from 3 to 3½ rupees per bag. It should, of course, be of such quality as is best suited for long keeping, and a trifle in the first cost should not be considered when put in competition with securing rice of real good quality. An equal attention will be due to the wheat. That article, however, where produced in warm climates, keeps much longer, in general, than that which is the produce of northern climes.

4. Should we not be able to procure tonnage here and the quantity which you can procure in India does not prove sufficient, the grain purchased by you can be resold upon your receiving our future orders.

5. To meet our views completely, the grain should arrive here in March; and though supplies at any period before harvest 1796 must be highly acceptable, you will keep in view that the sooner you can throw in a supply by the above means, the more consequential will the relief be. Although we should suppose that general advertisement would be the most effectual means to secure a large supply, yet, as some of your merchants trade upon a very great scale, it may perhaps be more advisable to secure a large quantity of grain and tonnage by private contract, previous to your making these, our wishes, public; of this you will use your discretion according to circumstances.

6. Should you see it a necessary encouragement to the merchants to lend them the money on the grain payable here at a moderate exchange, you will of course do it, or grant them any other facility you may deem proper. We have given you in this despatch our ideas upon the subject, but the execution thereof we leave entirely to your judgement, guided as it must be by local circumstances.

7. We shall send copies of this dispatch to the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, and direct them to hold out similar encouragement to the merchants there; but at present we see no reason to authorise them to make any purchases.

8. We enclose for your information a price current of wheat and rice for the last six years as also the present price of pease.

9. If common cargo rice is at the usual price of about three rupees per bag, ten thousand tons even of a superior quality would but little exceed in cost forty five thousand pounds sterling, and if one half was wheat, supposed to cost generally about 274 rupees (sic) per bag, the amount of the whole would be still less. We trust, however, that you will be as economical in regard to your contracts as is fitting with the momentous occasion that calls forth this dispatch.

10. The subject matter of this dispatch was suggested by us, and we directed the same to be carried into execution by the Secret Committee in the terms above written.

November 5th, 1795.

Henry Dundas / W. Pitt.

The prices of wheat as furnished by the corn exchange for the last 5 years appear as follows:—

				Bushel at 60 lb. weight.			
				Per bushel			
	sh	d		sh	d	sh	d
1790 from 36 to 61 per quarter—average				51:10	or	6:5¾	
1791 „ 36 to 52 —do—				45:8	„	5:8½	
1792 „ 36 to 53 —do—				42:8	„	5:4	
1793 „ 32 to 55 —do—				46:0	„	5:9	
1794 „ 45 to 60 —do—				52:4	„	6:6½	

The present market price, in July 1795, is 80:0 or 10:0

For the last 5 years the prices of Carolina rice are stated to be as follows:—

	sh	d	sh	d		sh	d
1790 from 16:9 to 17:0 per ct. average					16:3	per	cwt.
1791 „ 15:6 to 15:9 —do—					15:7	„	„
1792 „ 14:6 to 17:0 —do—					15:10	„	„
1793 „ 15:6 to 18:6 —do—					17:1	„	„
1794 „ 16:0 to 23:6 —do—					19:8	„	„

1795. The present price of rice in the market is from 32s to 40s per cwt. Pease are now selling at 7 shillings per bushel, July 1795.

SECRET LETTER DATED 17 AUGUST 1795

*Ships for conveying grain to England.***T**O the Governor General for the time being of Bengal.

Capt. . . . , the bearer of this letter is the Commander of the . . . ,
one of the ships taken up for the purposes mentioned in our letter of the 7
July last.

East India House,
17 August 1795.

We are &c.,

(Signed) Step. Lushington / W. Devaynes.

<i>Scilly</i>	...	...	...	Capt. Robert Brown
<i>Achilles</i>	...	...	...	„ Robert Hogg
<i>Iris</i>	...	...	...	„ Jno. Salsbury

Dated the 8 August.

<i>Britannia</i>	...	...	...	Thos. Denton
<i>Earl Spencer</i>	...	...	...	Thos. Denton
<i>Three Sisters</i>	...	...	...	John Hall
<i>Brunswick</i>	...	...	...	Chas. Ryland
<i>Alexr.</i>	...	...	...	J. K. Thompson
<i>John & James</i>	...	...	...	Jas. Johnston
<i>Camilla</i>	...	...	...	Robt. Service

Signed the 21st August.

<i>Pursuit</i>	...	...	...	Capt. Barker
<i>Orion</i>	...	...	...	„ Isaac Cushing

31st August.

Indorsed on the cover—"To be opened by the Governor of Madras
or Bombay in case of the ship's first
arrival at either of those places."

SECRET LETTER DATED 21 AUGUST 1795¹*Introducing Captain Thomas Denton.***T**O the Honorable the Governor General of Bengal.

Captain Thomas Denton, the bearer of this letter, is the Commander of the *Earl Spencer*, one of the ships taken up for the purposes mentioned in our letter of the 7th July last.

We are,
Your affectionate friends,

East India House,
London, 21st August, 1795.

Stepn. Lushington / W. Devaynes.

SECRET LETTER OF OCTOBER 1795

*Approval of the abandonment of the expedition against Mauritius and Bourbon.***T**O the Governor General in Council at Bengal.

1. Your several letters addressed to the Secret Committee of the following dates have been duly received ; *viz.*,

15th and 31st May	}	1794
9 June		
25 August		
30 December		
31 January		1795

Answer to the letter of the 15th May, 1794.

2. The proceedings referred to in this dispatch on the receipt of our orders of the 23rd October and 26th November, 1793, for an expedition against the French islands of Bourbon and Mauritius having been attentively perused, and having considered also of the arguments adduced in those proceedings and in the letter before us, we acquiesce in the propriety of your several resolutions of the 9th May, 1794, with respect to the limitations under which the

Government of Madras were to authorize the executive officers to undertake the expedition.

3. Your subsequent proceedings referred to in your letter of the 31st of that month for the provision of grain, sheep and vessels, in the event of the expedition taking place, have likewise received our approbation.

4. The proceedings of the 9th June, 1794, enclosed in your Secretary's letter of that date, sufficiently manifest your zeal for the accomplishment of the proposed object, combined with a due regard to the safety of the Company's possessions.

Answer to the letter dated 25th August, 1794.

5. Our dispatch of the 21st March, 1794, of which you here acknowledge the receipt, left you at full liberty, as circumstances might warrant, either to

Paragraphs 1 to 8
advising the receipt of
the Committee's instructions of the 21st
March, 1794, and that
the expedition had
been postponed.

undertake the proposed expedition against the French Islands, to postpone it for another year, or to relinquish it altogether. And as Colonel Stuart, to whom the conduct of the expedition was ultimately committed, had given it as his deliberate opinion that no diminution could be admitted in the original requisition for the

European troops to be sent on that service, and as you were confirmed in your sentiments that the requisition could not be complied with without danger to the British possessions in India, we think you were fully justified, by the proceedings before us, in your resolution that the expedition should not be carried into execution during that season.

6. With respect to the resolutions that were passed and the orders which were given in the interval between the date of your dispatch of the 9th June and the receipt of our beforementioned letter of the 21st March 1794 (referred to in the 7th paragraph of the letter to which we are now replying), we have only to express a general approbation thereof.

7. The preparatory steps, mentioned in the subsequent part of that letter, in case the expedition had not been finally relinquished, have likewise received our approbation.

Answer to the letter dated 30th December, 1794.

Paragraph 1 acknowledging the receipt of the Committee's dispatches.

2 mentioning that the orders relative to the homeward bound ships have been attended to.

3 to 10 relative to prohibiting saltpetre being shipped on vessels belonging to foreigners.

8. Need no reply.

9. This prohibition must be continued during the war.

10. We have perused the very able minute of the Governor General, dated the 29th December last, which led to a determination that the proposed expedition against the French Islands should be altogether

Paragraphs 11 to 19
advising of the expedi-
tion against the French
Islands having been
relinquished.

relinquished, unless it could be undertaken with a force greatly inferior to the original requisition. And, as we find by your subsequent dispatch of the 31st January last, that Colonel Stuart had seen no reason to alter his

opinion respecting the force which he thought necessary, to be employed on that service and that as it appeared, from the latest information from the Mauritius, that the island was put into a complete state of defence, and guarded by a body of 10,000 men, trained to arms, and in readiness to act, by which his former opinion, that no force inferior to that first proposed could be employed with any probability of success, had been confirmed, we cannot hesitate to acquiesce in the propriety of your resolution, under the latitude given you by our beforementioned orders of the 21st March, 1794, and for the reasons which have been so forcibly urged, to relinquish all idea of prosecuting the expedition, how desirous soever His Majesty's Ministers might have been of its successful termination.

11. The expedition against the French Islands having been thus laid aside, and having received no intimation from His Majesty's Ministers of any intention on their parts, at present, to renew it, it is necessary to remind you of the desire expressed in our letter of the 23rd October, 1793, that an account might be kept of any article of expence incurred by the Company for the purposes of this expedition, and to direct that a copy of this account, so soon as you shall be able to complete it by a reference to the Madras Government, be transmitted to us. In the meantime we have directed our Governor and Council at Madras to take the most speedy and effectual measures for disposing of the stores and provisions provided for the expedition.

12. We are advised from the Public Department, and in your Secret Letter of the 31st January last, of your determination, which we approve, to send re-inforcements to that settlement, in consequence of the report of Captain Cox of the military force there being inferior to that which had been exhibited in the latest previous returns, and in consequence of the probable loss of the detachment and stores dispatched thither in July, 1794.

Paragraphs 20 and
21. Relative to intelli-
gence of the probabili-
ty of an attack by
the enemy on Fort
Marlboro'.

13. We entertain a due sense of the merits of Commodore Rainier in the instance here pointed out, and approve of the Governor General's letter to him upon that subject of the 15th October, 1794, relative to the mode in which the Commodore's intentions could best be effected.

22. In commenda-
tion of the attention
of Commodore Rainier
to the protection of
the British settlements
and trade.

14. The subjects of the paragraphs will be replied to in the Public Paragraphs 23, 24, Department.
25 & 26.

15. Your letter to the Secret Committee of the 31st January, 1795, requires no particular reply.

16. We have to advise that our Secretary has received a letter from Mr. Secretary Hay of the 13th February, 1795, transmitting by your order the Governor General's correspondence with Commodore Rainier, and we very much approve of the suggestions contained in Sir John Shore's letter to the Commodore of the 6th February relative to the disposition of His Majesty's ships for the general protection of the India trade during the late south west monsoon.

Whitehall, the 29th October, 1795.
We direct that a letter be dispatched by the Secret Committee, in the usual form, according to the tenor of the foregoing draft.

Signed October, 1795,
by Step. Lushington / D. Scott / W. Devaynes.

Henry Dundas / Ed. J. Eliot /
B. B. Jenkinson.

25

SECRET LETTER DATED 5 NOVEMBER 1795

Ships for conveying grain to England.

To Bengal.

1. In our letter of the 7th July last, you were advised of our intention to engage as many coppered ships as could be procured fit for the purpose to assist in bringing home the grain you were therein directed to purchase. We have now to inform you that the following ships have been engaged for that service, viz.,

<i>Sally</i>	Capt. Brown	459 tons
<i>Achilles</i>	Hogg	507
<i>Iris</i>	Sailsbury	303
<i>Britannia</i>	Nixon	384
<i>Earl Spencer</i>	Denton	645
<i>Three Sisters</i>	Hall	333
<i>Brunswick</i>	Ryland	486
<i>Alexander</i>	Thompson	355
<i>John & James</i>	Johnston	335
<i>Camilla</i>	Service	375
<i>Pursuit</i>	Barker	400
		<hr/>
		5,051 tons (sic)

2. In case you should not be able to procure a sufficient number of ships in India to make up the deficiency of the tonnage ordered, you will, without waiting our further orders, either dispose of the grain for which you cannot procure tonnage, or retain the same in your granaries, as may be most advantageous for our interest.

3. The subject matter of this dispatch was suggested by us, and we directed the same to be carried into execution by the Secret Committee in the terms above written.

Whitehall,
November 5th, 1795.

Henry Dundas / W. Pitt.

East India House,
London,
5th November, 1795.

Signed. S. Lushington / D. Scott / W. Devaynes.

LETTERS TO COURT

FOREIGN LETTER DATED 25 JANUARY 1792

French request for permission to export grain in respect of Pondicherry granted, but turned down in respect of Mauritius.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Our last address from this Department was dated the 25th of November, 1791, and forwarded to you by the *Queen*. We have now the honor of transmitting a continuation of our proceedings with index to the 28th December last.

French

2. Our letter above-mentioned communicated to you the resolutions we had adopted in respect to the Commissaries who were deputed to this country by the Government of the Isle of France, and we informed you that these gentlemen had, on our determining to act and correspond with Mr. Fumeron, written to us in terms so very objectionable¹ that we had declined making any reply to their letter, satisfying ourselves with transmitting a copy of it to Mauritius.

3. A copy of that which we wrote in consequence to the Governor of the Isle of France will be forwarded a number in this
 Consn. 13th January. packet.

4. In our consultation of the 2d of last month a letter is recorded from Monsieur Fumeron, in which he made an urgent application on the part of Monsieur De Fresne for permission to export from hence
 Consn. 2d December. four thousand bags of grain for the relief of the colony of Pondicherry. We were induced to comply with the request in consideration of the distress of the inhabitants having been, in a great degree, augmented by an irruption of Tippoo's cavalry into the Carnatic, which had obliged number of the people of that country to take refuge for some time within the French limits, when Mr. De Fresne humanely provided for their support and subjected his own settlement by doing so to material inconvenience.

5. A request was also made to us for leave to send a quantity of grain to the Isle of France; but this we were reluctantly obliged to decline, as the necessities of our own provinces which had required us to lay on the embargo

continued, and the same plea of distress that was brought forward in the instance of the French colonies might and would be urged to favor a claim to the same indulgence towards other countries, and because the application for an export to Mauritius had not any ground to support it similar to those which had induced us to allow of a small supply being sent to Pondicherry.

Fort William,
25th January, 1792.

We have the honor to be &c.

(Per Kent.)

2

FOREIGN LETTER DATED 8 APRIL 1792

Further request from the French to export grain to Pondicherry—Dispute with the French about the price of saltpetre—Loan to the Dutch—Dispute about spiritual jurisdiction over Roman Catholic churches at Bombay.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We had the honor of addressing you from this Department by the *Kent* on the 25th of January. You will herewith receive a continuation of our proceedings subsequent to those which were then forwarded, the annual sett of our consultations for 1791, with indexes to both, and the other papers mentioned in the list of packet.

French

2. We informed you in our last letter that we had been induced to comply with an application made to us by the agent for the affairs of the French nation in Bengal for permission to export from hence four thousand bags of grain for the relief of the colony of Pondicherry, in consideration of the distress of the inhabitants having been considerably increased by an irruption of Tippoo's cavalry into the Carnatic, which had obliged number of the people of that country to take refuge for some time within the French limits, when Mr. De Fresne humanely provided for their support, and subjected his own settlement to material inconvenience by so doing.

3. Mr. Fumeron having since requested that we would permit him to export a further quantity of four thousand bags of grain to Pondicherry, and assigned as a reason for his application that the return of a large party of *looties* into the Carnatic had again compelled a great number of the inhabitants to take refuge under the walls of Pondicherry, the same motives that prevailed with us in authorizing the exportation of the supply before solicited induced us

Consn. 15th February.

to comply with Mr. Fumeron's present request, and the necessary orders were accordingly given for exempting from the general embargo the vessels laden with the additional supply of grain above mentioned.

4. A question was brought before us by the Board of Trade relative to the price that should be charged to the French for their annual supplies of saltpetre.

Consn. 7th Decem-
ber, 1791.

5. It is settled in the 3d article of the convention with France that the saltpetre should be delivered at the price established before the last war; but, as the French, previous to that period, received their saltpetre at Patna, the price so stipulated was of course referable to that place. Two years ago it was thought more convenient that the saltpetre should be delivered at Calcutta, and Colonel Montigny, then Commandant at Chandernagore, declared his assent to this alteration. The Board of Trade, upon receiving an order in the present year to deliver to the French in Calcutta and at Diamond Harbour the quantity of saltpetre which they required, submitted to us whether, in addition to the price which would have been paid for it if the delivery had been made at Patna, they should not be charged with a proportion of wastage (a loss which always occurs in the conveyance of the saltpetre from the factory) and also with a proportion of the charges of transportation and for the risk of the river, in like manner as the Danes are charged, who receive their saltpetre at the Presidency. The Board of Trade observed that according to this suggestion the French would indeed pay, upon the whole, more than the Danes do, because the price for the French, when the saltpetre is delivered at the factory, exceeds the invoice price, which, by our order of February 1788, was fixed, independently of the items above mentioned, for the Danes; but that as the convention is specific as to the rate, and these items appeared proper to be borne by the French under present circumstances as to the places of receipt that had been chosen, they had directed that the items should be charged to the French until our pleasure on the subject should be known.

6. We concurred with the Board of Trade in their opinion, and approved of their adding the charges they proposed.

7. Afterwards, upon their sending a bill made out accordingly to the merchants to whom the saltpetre had been consigned by the French Agent, they objected to the increased demand as unexpected when they made their agreement with the French Agent. The amount in dispute was current rupees¹ 16,370-1-6.

Consn. 9th March.

8. We stated to Mr. Fumeron the grounds upon which the additional charge was made, and he did not contend against the justice of it; but as he had reason to imagine when he applied for the saltpetre that no more than the Patna price was to be paid for it, he did not think himself at liberty to accede to the demand of a higher without authority from his superiors at Pondicherry.

9. There appeared to be reason in his objection, and we consented to receive, for the present, the lower price, or that which would have been paid had the delivery been made at Patna, allowing the remaining part of the charge to lie over until he should have received the orders of his superiors upon the point; and we desired that

Consn. 28th March.

in future he would authorize some person to receive the saltpetre at Patna, annually, from your President at that place.

10. Mr. Fumeron has lately sent to us registers of the permits granted by himself and the Commandant at Pondicherry for the French salt to be imported here, according to the convention, for the season beginning on the 1st of May, 1792, and we have given the necessary orders for receiving it according to the established regulations.

11. He has given us reason to expect to be soon informed of the establishment of a regular government at Chandernagore, and we shall be glad when so desirable an event takes place.

Dutch

12. We were advised by the Director and Council at Chinsurah that the Government General had permitted the Director, Mr. Titsing, at his request, to resign that office, and appointed Mr. Cornelius Concn. 3d February. Van Citters Annaetoz to be his successor in the direction. Mr. Titsing has been called to a seat in the Supreme Council of Batavia.

13. On our proceedings noted in the margin a letter is recorded from the Director and Council, in which they stated to us their great want of resources to enable them to carry on the affairs of their Company in Bengal, not having received some expected supplies of money from Batavia, and earnestly requested that we would oblige them with the loan of a lac of rupees for bills on their Government General. Concn. 24th February.

14. Our desire to afford the Dutch Government in Bengal every assistance in our power in an emergency which appeared to be very pressing induced us to accommodate them with the amount they had desired.

15. In communicating this resolution to the gentlemen at Chinsurah, we observed to them that, as we had no occasion for money at Batavia, we wished that the amount of the loan should be repaid into the treasury of your Supracargoes at Canton, and at the exchange of fortyone dollars for one hundred current rupees, at some time between the 1st of November, 1792, and the 31st of January, 1793:

16. Bills on the Governor General and Council of Batavia have been accordingly granted to us on the above terms (including a small balance due to us on a former account, of current rupees 8,963-9-10); and three bills have been made payable, with the leave of the said Governor General in Council, to your Supracargoes in China. Concn. 5th March.

17. Mr. Titsingh, on his departure for Batavia, made us an offer of forwarding the bills to your Supracargoes by the first opportunities that might present themselves after his arrival, and we were glad to avail ourselves of it. We have accordingly sent the bills by that gentleman, and at the same time written to the Government General of Batavia expressing our assurance that, notwithstanding the qualification under which we had consented to accept the bills, they would provide for their due discharge in China, and thereby manifesting that they were no less Concn. 14th March.

ready to accommodate us on this occasion than we had been to consult the convenience of their Government here.

18. Copies of our letter to the Governor General and Council of Batavia, Consn. 14th March. to Mr. Titsing, and to the Supracargoes at China will be sent numbers in the packet.

Danes

19. We beg leave to acquaint you that Mr. Wulden has been appointed Cons. 8th February. to succeed Mr. Seavenaris as chief of the Danish Company's factory at Fredericksnagore.

Portugucze

20. You will receive, among the papers sent with this dispatch, a translation of a letter addressed to us by the Archbishop of Goa, and dated the 10th of October last, wherein he states his claim to the spiritual jurisdiction of the Roman Catholic churches at Bombay, in exclusion of the priests of the Romish mission "De Propaganda", and requests that we will direct the execution of an order of your Honourable Court to be suspended, whereby the priests of the Propaganda were reinstated on the 1st of September, 1791.

21. We have referred this application to the Bombay Government, and recommended that however they may act upon it, a full and just statement of the case may be made out to be transmitted to England for your final decision.

Fort William,
8th April, 1792.

We have the honor to be &c.

(Per Dutton.)

3

FOREIGN LETTER DATED 3 SEPTEMBER 1792

Price of saltpetre sold to the French.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Our last dispatches from this Department were dated the 8th of April, 1792. We have now the honor of transmitting to you copies of our proceedings from the 4th of April to the 24th of August inclusive, with an index,

French

2. In the 9th paragraph of our General Letter by the *Dutton* we informed you that we had allowed a claim for wastage, charges of transportation &c. of the saltpetre delivered to the French in the last season to lie over until Mr. Fumeron should have received the orders of his superiors concerning it.

3. We think it proper to forward to you in the packet an extract of a letter since written to us by Mr. Fumeron on the subject, and to acquaint you that in consequence of the representation therein made, we consented that the price to be charged to the French for the saltpetre of the last season should be no more than current rupees 3-12-5-8-6 per maund; orders were accordingly given that the difference between the sum and the amount entered to their debit should be written off the books of the warehouse.

4. We have, at the same time, informed the French Agent that the quantity of saltpetre to which they are entitled annually by the convention will henceforth be delivered at Patna to such person as might be authorized to receive the same at the price of *ely* rupees¹ 3-8 or Ct. [current] Rs. 3-12-5-8-6² per factory maund, the said place of delivery as well as the price corresponding with those referred to in the convention as having existed previous to the last war.

5. We have made a similar intimation to the Director and Council at Chinsurah with regard to the delivery of the quantity of saltpetre annually allotted to the Dutch, and have desired the chiefs of the three foreign settlements to give us notice, annually, in or before the month of August, whether they proposed to take up for the ensuing season the whole or what part of the quantity of saltpetre allotted to them respectively, that the same may be prepared and in readiness for delivery at the proper time; that is to say, the saltpetre bespoke in August 1792 for 1793 will be ready by the shipping season of 1793 commencing in the month of October, and so on for subsequent years. We shall thus be apprized in due time of the quantity of saltpetre that it will be necessary to provide in addition to the supply required to be sent to Europe on account of the Company.

6. In a letter from Mr. Fumeron dated the 24th of June he informed us that he had received orders from Monsieur De Fresne to return to Pondicherry as soon as possible, and that his agency was consequently at an end; but soon afterwards, *viz.* on the 13th of the following month, he advised us that he had been confirmed in his appointment, and directed to proceed to Chandernagore if the inhabitants of that settlement should be disposed to receive him. This has not yet happened.

7. With our dispatches of the 25th January we transmitted to your Honorable Court a copy of a letter written by us to the Governor of Isle de France in respect to the Commissaries who were deputed to Bengal by Monsieur De Cossigny, and we now forward a translation of the letter which Monsieur De Cossigny has written to us in answer.

We have the honor to be,

Honorable Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servants.

Fort William,
3rd September, 1792.

FOREIGN LETTER DATED 12 DECEMBER 1792

Disorder in the French settlements—The Supreme Court and disputes between French seamen and their captains—Dutch repayment of loan—Danish claims on Calicut referred to the Malabar Commissioners.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We had the honor of addressing you from this Department on the 3d of September; and we now transmit to you a continuation of our proceedings to the 30th November with an index.

French

2. We have already communicated to you the resolution we had come to concerning the excess of salt imported by the virtue of French permits¹ into Bengal in the year 1790-91.

3. This subject was again brought before us by Mr. De Fresne and Consn. 10th Septem- Mr. Fumeron in two letters dated the 7th of September ber. and 23d of August. Copies of their translations will be sent numbers in the packet.

4. Although no new arguments were urged in these letters of sufficient weight to induce us to alter our resolution, confirmed by your Honorable Court, for applying to the use of the Company the produce of the confiscated salt in question, still with a view to put the justice and propriety of the measure beyond doubt, we called upon the Comptroller of the Salt Department to prepare and submit to us a full and distinct narrative of all the circumstances that had any relation to the confiscation of the Consn. 10th Septem- French salt imported into Bengal in the year 1790/91, ber. accompanied by the necessary vouchers appertaining thereto, and any remarks that his official situation might enable him to make on any part of that subject.

5. You will receive, by the present dispatch, copies of the report that Consn. 8th October. has been consequently made by the Comptroller, and of the letter written by Lord Cornwallis in answer to that from Mr. De Fresne of the 20th of August.

6. On the 26th of September we received a letter from Mr. Fumeron Consn. 28th Septem- the agent for the affairs of the French nation in Bengal ber. acquainting us that Monsr. De Fresne had required him

to repair to Pondicherry. He afterwards left the Presidency; but, having
 Consn. 28th Septem- previously requested that we would authorize all pay-
 ber. ments to be made to Mr. Michel on account of the annual
 quantity of salt to be imported by the French until the arrival of another chief,
 we gave the necessary orders to the Board of Revenue accordingly.

7. The Governor General has received from Monsr. Malartic [a letter]
 Consn. 8th October. dated the 12th of August advising His Lordship that
 Mr. De Cossigny having resigned that situation, he had
 been appointed to succeed to the Government of the French possessions to the
 east of the Cape of Good Hope, and arrived at the Isle of France at the latter
 end of June.

8. Mr. Malartic acquainted Lord Cornwallis that he had provisionally
 nominated Mr. Gautier, Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment at Pondicherry,
 to be Commandant at Chandernagore; and he trusted that Mr. Gautier would
 establish peace at that settlement until the arrival of the Commissioners from
 France.

Consn. 2d Novem- 9. A copy [of] Lord Cornwallis's answer to
 ber. Mr. Malartic's letter will be sent a number in the packet.

10. Mr. De Fresne has since transmitted a letter to the Governor General,
 dated the 16th of October, from Mr. L'Escallier, one of the Commissioners
 Consn. 30th Novem- deputed to the French establishments in India, in which
 ber. he informs His Lordship of his commission, and that his
 colleague Mr. De Morin was to remain two months longer at the Isle de France,
 after which they should repair together to Bengal for the purpose of establish-
 ing order in the French factories. He requested that, in the meantime, we
 would continue to treat with Mr. De Fresne only on all subjects that required
 reference to our Government. Mr. L'Escallier observed that there was nothing
 in the instructions of the Commissioners that did not tend to maintain the
 harmony which subsisted between our respective nations.

11. We beg leave to inform you that neither Mr. Gautier nor the Com-
 missioners are yet arrived.

12. On our consultation noted in the margin, a letter is recorded from
 Mr. Fumeron, soliciting that we would issue orders for forcing every French
 Consn. 24th August. seaman who should be found on shore without a written
 permission from his officer to return to his ship or for con-
 fining him at the request of his commander; and further, in cases of pecuniary
 differences between the captains of French ships, to prevent the attorneys of
 the Supreme Court from carrying on any proceedings in that Court against
 the commanders of such ships at the instance of the seamen, or, at least, to
 require them, before they pursued any legal measures, to make themselves
 masters of the cause, and to call for the agreements by which the seamen were
 bound and compel them to abide by those agreements.

13. Having deemed it necessary to consult the Advocate General on the
 points referred to us by Mr. Fumeron, we transmit to you a copy of his opinion.
 Mr. Fumeron was also furnished with a copy, and informed that the subject
 was so fully discussed in it that we had nothing to add but our regret at not
 having it in our power to comply with his wishes.

14. We have the pleasure of informing you that we have received advice from Mr. Titsingh, under date the 20th of August, that the bills of exchange granted by the Dutch Government at Chinsura for the Consn. 17th October. lack of rupees lent to them in the early part of this year had been accepted by the Supreme Council at Batavia, that orders had been sent to their supercargoes to pay the amount into your treasury in China, and that he had forwarded the first bill of exchange to your supercargoes there on the 6th of the month.

15. We have received a letter from the Governor at Tranquebar on the subject of a factory at Callicut on the Malabar Coast and the ground on which it stands, representing that they both belonged to his Danish Majesty, and requesting that we would give orders to our servants for preventing any differences that might otherwise occur.

16. We transmitted a copy of Governor Anker's letter to the Government at Bombay, with a request that they would enable us to reply to the reference it contained. We added that should the factory at Callicut and the ground on which it stands be the property of his Danish Majesty, as stated in Governor Anker's letter, we trusted that they had already issued orders for leaving the Resident on the part of that nation in the undisturbed possession of them.

17. The Government of Bombay have acquainted us, in answer, that the Commissioners for settling the ceded part of the Malabar country have been directed to investigate the claim of the Danish Resident and to report thereon as soon as possible.

Fort William,
12th December, 1792.

We have the honor to be
&c.

(Per General Goddard.)

5

FOREIGN LETTER DATED 13 AUGUST 1793

Capture of French vessels on the Hooghly and their sale—Administration of Chandernagore by Birch—Subsistence allowances to impoverished French inhabitants—Salt transactions with the French—Military aid to the Dutch at Cochin.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Our last advices from this Department by the General ~~Admiral~~ were dated the 12th of December, 1792, and the detail. ~~that~~ we have ~~for~~

to lay before you will include such occurrences as have happened since the departure of that ship.

2. The *Drake* cruizer, belonging to your marine establishment at Bombay, arrived here from Suez on the 12th of June with intelligence forwarded to your Governments in India by Mr. Baldwin, the Consul in Egypt, who made himself responsible for the authenticity of it that the French declared war against England at the beginning of last February¹. We had no hesitation in acting upon it under this assurance from Mr. Baldwin, especially as such an event was rendered highly probable from a letter which had been received by Lord Cornwallis from the Right Honorable Mr. Dundas, one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State; and we proceeded to take the necessary measures against the French in this country. The orders of your Secret Committee bearing date the 9th [7th?] of February, with their letter dated the 12th of March last, were afterwards received directing us to adopt without delay such measures as we might think would be effectual for the capture of any French ships or vessels, or of any forts or possessions which the French might have in India.

3. The arrival of Mr. Baldwin's despatch was immediately followed by orders to seize the French ships and vessels lying in the river, and they were executed by a party from the garrison without opposition. The number taken was four, *vizt.*,

the ships "*La bien Aimee*" and
"*Lis Amus de St. Dominique*";
the snow "*La bien faisant*"; and
the schooner "*Le Chandernagore*".

4. The first of these ships proved to have been formerly an English sloop of war, the *Ceres*; and we were induced from the description given of her to desire that she should be armed and fitted out as a cruizer under the directions of Captain Blair of your Bombay Marine, who happened to be in Calcutta; and we appointed him to command the ship.

5. The second appeared to have been recently French property, but, sometime before the arrival of the intelligence of the war, disposed of to English merchants resident here, who produced the papers by which the property had been altered. They brought sufficient testimony of their having obtained possession according to the established forms, and that the vessel carried an English flag. We therefore gave orders for restoring her to the merchants to whom she belonged. The other vessels were sold, and the proceeds of the sale were paid into the treasury.

6. On the 11th of June a small detachment of Europeans from the garrison was ordered to Barrackpore, where they were joined by a battalion of sepoys and proceeded under the command of Major Duncan to take possession of Chandernagore, which was immediately effected without resistance from the French inhabitants.

7. The commander of the detachment, after posting the necessary guards in and about the town, and securing, as far as was necessary for the present, the persons of the people, and those in particular in the different classes, whose violence had contributed to the disturbances which had so long disgraced that settlement, had an inventory made of the public property, which was

inconsiderable, and afterward sold at public auction for a sum not exceeding rupees four thousand three hundred and fifty four, four annas and three pice.

8. When we were advised of the surrender of the place Major Duncan was desired to accept the paroles of such of the inhabitants as were of the higher ranks, and to take the affidavits of those of the lower, binding them in the usual terms not to act offensively against the English during the continuance of the war between France and Great Britain.

9. We transmit, as numbers in the packet, copies of the instructions given to the officer commanding the detachment as well as of his different letters from Chandernagore subsequent to the capture.

10. We next appointed a Superintendent, annexing to his duties those of Judge and Magistrate, for the civil government of the place while it continued in our possession, and we nominated Mr. Richard Comyns Birch, one of your civil servants, to those offices. A copy of his instructions is enclosed.

11. Mr. Birch soon observed that the modes which had been used for dispensing the laws at Chandernagore were very inadequate to a full or impartial administration of justice to the inhabitants; and he suggested to us the necessity of authorising some reforms in the courts, or at least of freeing the laws that really existed from the abuses which hitherto had prevented their proper operation. He expressed himself in these terms:—

"There were, under the French establishment, two courts of justice: the *Cutcherry* and the Tribunal. The former blended the *fouzdarry* jurisdiction and the department of police with the investigation of civil actions between natives. The European *Jemmadar*, or Superintendent of Police, was the sole judge of this court, assisted by a *Greffier* or Registrar, the usual native officers as in our courts, and four native Counsellors who declared the law of the respective religions, and who gave their opinion on the whole cause prior to the judgement of the *Jemmadar*, by which, however, the latter was not restricted as to the definitive sentence.

"I have every reason to believe that this court of native Counsellors, as they were called, has been not merely useless, but that the opinion given by them in open court, which in the generality of cases (that is such as are clearly proved) is the same with the sentence of the *Jemmadar*, has afforded the means of impressing the natives with the idea that these Counsellors have power to give what sentence they please, and enables them and others to make exactions from the suitors, which it will be my particular care to put a stop to, and for which this court, I am afraid very deservedly, was loudly complained against under the French Government.

"If these Counsellors are no longer kept, I apprehend, the rest of establishment may be deemed as low as it can be reduced to, the extreme penury of this settlement for some time past having compelled the ruling party to abolish every expence not absolutely indispensable.

"I have likewise to request my jurisdiction in criminal cases may be defined² by your informing me if I am to try offences short of capital, or if all criminal cases are to be sent to Kishenagur to the Judge of Circuit.

"The Tribunal, or European Court, will, I fear, occasion to your Lordship in Council a considerable trouble. I am not at all afraid of the duties of it, nor do I apprehend any material difficulties will arise as to your decisions on these points on which I shall have to request your orders; but as some

deviation must necessarily take place, either from the French laws, or rather form of laws, or from the English laws, and as in several cases now within my knowledge I have reason to think justice will require a deviation from both, I beg leave to suggest the following proposal, that instead of any general rules being made I may proceed in the investigation of the causes of most importance till they are ready for sentence, that I may then be permitted to attend your Lordship in Council when they are taken into consideration. Your decisions on these cases, and on the points I may particularly have to suggest out of them, will form rules for my guidance both as to forms and decisions in future.

"This Tribunal is a court of very great importance involving the whole property of this settlement, and of all connected with it. A principal and immediate difficulty arises from the property of persons dying intestate, and of absentees forced during the late tumults to abandon their own property, and that of others to whom they were attorney. The French form in the former case is for seals to be imposed by the *Greffier* taken off and inventories made before witnesses, the goods or estate sold by auction, and claims upon it made by application to the court, whose orders the *Greffier* obeys in the appropriation. This mode, with some forms for securing the property from any embezzlement, and with a payment of the money into the Company's treasury instead of remaining with any individual, might with propriety³ continue. Three cases of persons having property and dying intestate have occurred since I have been in charge of the plan; and several successions to estates of deceased persons are in litigation and requiring prompt decision, one of which is to a very large amount and involves questions of much intricacy as to the rights of the claimants. It would scarcely be possible for me to state abstractedly satisfactory grounds on which an opinion can be formed which could be a sufficient guide for⁴ my conduct. But, as every proceeding in the court is in writing, particular cases may be submitted to you with great accuracy, and these will be good grounds for general rules."

12. We acquainted Mr. Birch in answer to his letter that, coinciding in
 Consn. 19 July. opinion with him as to the necessity of reforming the then existing *Cutchery*, and abolishing the different offices annexed to it, as far as might be consistent with the due administration of justice, we desired that the necessary orders might be given for these purposes.

13. We observed with regret that it would be difficult to wave a decision on some of the civil actions at present depending in the court at Chandernagore, for we anxiously wished to avoid any determination on property which, in the event of Chandernagore being restored to its late possessors, might prove a source of future distress to the individuals, and even of discussion between the English and French Government. We therefore proposed that, where the nature of the case did not press for immediate judgement, he should rather let the proceedings remain suspended than pass an order upon them.

14. Under this limitation, we instructed Mr. Birch to take such steps in the investigation of civil actions as the French laws had directed, not passing judgement where it could be postponed without material injury to the suitors, and setting aside for the present all cases not answering this description.

15. We entirely approved of the abolition of the fees that had heretofore been exacted in the *phouzday* business, as well as of all other fees, which,

without being just rights annexed to particular offices, afforded pretexts to the inferior attendants for putting into execution various corrupt and oppressive measures for the extortion of money from the suitors in the court.

16. The necessity of exercising a criminal jurisdiction for the protection of the persons and properties of those who resided at Chandernagore and in its neighbourhood did not admit of delay in this branch of Mr. Birch's duty. We directed him therefore to proceed to the trial of all criminals in the mode and at the times appointed by the French laws, excepting natives who were to be tried by our own regulations, passing such sentences and inflicting such punishments as those laws and regulations have annexed to the crimes that he might have occasion to decide on.

17. With regard to the European Court, we directed him to observe the rules of conduct that have hitherto governed the proceedings there, and, should any case occur in which he experienced a difficulty in forming a decision, to report the case, in writing, detailing at length the evidence that had been given on both sides, the French law as it applied on that evidence, and the foundation of those doubts which had induced him to suspend the sentence or decision.

18. As to the property of intestates, we instructed him to take such steps as the peculiar circumstances of each case might suggest, but still with a reference to the principle laid down, of abstaining, as far as possible, from coming to final judgement unless induced to do so by absolute necessity.⁵

19. In addition to these instructions, we afterwards acquainted him that, in all cases, whether of magnitude or involving questions of doubt or difficulty, that came before him, although sentence was to be pronounced and judgement given by him, he was to refer his decisions, previous to carrying them into execution, to the Governor General in Council, with copies of all the proceedings thereupon, considering the Government General in all such cases as a court of ultimate resort by which his determination might be confirmed or altered as the circumstances of the case might appear to the Governor General in Council to require.

20. The total decline of the French trade under the late unsettled form of government, added to the intestine commotions which disturbed the peace of their settlements, having deprived many of the inhabitants of the means of support, we have, in compliance with the representations of Mr. Birch, agreed to allow certain small sums (large however in the aggregate) during the continuance of the war for the support of persons who would otherwise be wholly destitute. We transmit, as a number in the packet, a list of the names of these persons, their former situations, their claims on us for support, and the allowances to each respecting.

21. All the persons in that list would have been exposed to perish from want, if they had not experienced the indulgence of this Government; and, as an additional reason for granting them assistance, it may not be superfluous to remark that local circumstances may be urged in support of their claim on the humanity of the Company. It is not only those who received allowances for employments under

Consn. 22d July,
No. 6.

the French Government whose distress may be attributed to the capture. All who derived their subsistence by a little export trade, which is now precluded, and even by professions which that commerce enabled them to follow, are left without bread by the effects of the war. In Europe, a variety of means for subsistence are open to all ranks; but, in this country, and in the present situation of the French, industry has no room for exertion, and distress is altogether without resource.

22. On the day that the intelligence arrived from Mr. Baldwin we gave orders that letters should be written to the Magistrates &c. in the three provinces directing them to take possession of all factories and houses of trade belonging to the French; and orders were at the same time forwarded to the Officers Commanding at the different stations to afford such assistance to the Magistrates in the execution of the directions sent to them as they might deem necessary.

23. We beg leave to refer you to our proceedings of the annexed dates for the letters that were received from the different Magistrates in whose districts the French had property, acquainting us that they had taken possession of the factories and houses of trade, and had taken from the French paroles and affidavits in the terms and according to the forms (copies of which we now enclose) which had been transmitted to them.

Consn. 21 June,
No. 2.

24. It having appeared to us that it might be productive of injurious consequences to the interest of the Company if we permitted any individual of the French nation to carry on trade as private merchants in different parts of the provinces, and as they had previously done during the existence of the French houses of commerce, we issued circular orders to the Magistrates and chiefs of districts to send all persons of this description to the Presidency, subsequent to their having given the paroles or affidavits mentioned in the preceding paragraphs.

25. But as it was represented to us that many individuals of the French nation had resided peaceably in different parts of the provinces for several years, and that their being removed would be destructive of their future prospects, we, on a subsequent occasion, so far altered our original orders as to admit their carrying on trade, provided the chief of the district should make no objection to their doing so; and we further desired that the chief's assent might not be withheld, except to the applications of persons of unfair character who were likely, in his opinion, to abuse the indulgence, and whose habits of life did not allow him to expect that they would carry on their commerce in a fair and regular way.

26. Our proceedings of the annexed date contain copies of letters from the Resident at Ingeram to the Commanding Officer at Samulcottah,^e and the answers relative to the measures to be taken for the defence of the Company's possessions against the French, as well as of those necessary for the reduction of the factory at Yanam belonging to that nation.

Consn. 5 July, No. 5
to No. 17 inclusive.

27. In our consultation of the 14th June, you will observe the correspondence that passed previous to a knowledge of the war between your Chief

and Council at Surat and Mr. Bruix, French Resident at that place, as well as between the Chief and Council at Surat and the Bombay Government on the subject, principally of Mr. Bruix's requisition that he should hoist the French colours at Surat.

28. The whole business having been finally referred to us for our final determination, we thought it unnecessary to send any answer to the reference at present in respect to the privilege claimed by the French Resident at Surat, as from the intelligence we had received prior to the arrival of these papers, and the instructions we had in consequence sent to Bombay, the French factory must have been taken possession of for the Company.

29. An application having been made to the Board of Trade by Mr. Michel on the 12th of June, subsequent to the arrival of the intelligence of the war, relative to the delivery of the cargoes of salt which had been consigned to him, the Board of Trade communicated his application to us together with their observations on it in the following terms.

"In consequence of the war with France, we beg leave to submit to your Lordship in Council that French permits on account of the convention salt of 1793/4 have been produced at this office to the amount of maunds 35,000, that the quantity actually delivered to the 12th June into the Company's *golas* upon the above permits amount to maunds 29,272. No payment has yet been made for this salt, because the list of permits for the year 1793/4 had not been received by Monsieur Michel; and he desired that the salt imported by the *Bien Aimie* (part of the above quantity) might be received into the Company's *golas* upon the permits, and that payment might be deferred till the list (which forms the official check) should arrive. This was acquiesced in, and the same was extended to all other cargoes in a like predicament. We enclose copy of Mr. Michel's letter dated 6th May, 1793.

Consn. 17 June,
No. 24.

"That there are on board English ships at Sulky' a further quantity of 1793/4 French salt in course of delivery amounting by estimate to about maunds 7,948.

"Duplicate or substitute permits on account of '92/3 have been presented to the amount of maunds 11,000; and there have been received upon these permits, conformably to your Lordship's directions of the 10th April last, maunds 10,745, [seers] 25, and for which, agreeably to the above directions, no payment has yet been made.

"The whole quantity of salt which the French were authorized to import under duplicate permits on account of '92/3 amounted to about maunds 27,517, [seers] 2, as stated in our letter to your Lordship in Council under date the 15th April.

"Monsieur Michel has, since the notification of war with France, addressed us a letter, stating that, if the Government of Pondicherry had not omitted a necessary form (meaning the transmission of the list of permits), the salt which has been delivered would have been paid for, and intimating his expectation that the French individuals to whom it belongs shall yet be paid. We send an extract of his letter.

"We request your Lordship's instructions upon Monsieur Michel's application, and for our proceedings respecting the salt in course of delivery from

the English ships at Sulky, and respecting any that may yet arrive in English ships under sanction of permits issued before the knowledge of hostility with France.

"We take the present occasion to communicate to your Lordship in Council a circumstance which we are of opinion ought to be known to the Honorable Court of Directors and the English Ministry whenever amity shall be restored with France, *vizt.*, that the French Governors and Agents were in the habit of selling the permits for the two lacks of maunds of salt the French were allowed by the Convention of 1787 to import into Bengal. British subjects were, we believe, frequently the purchasers. We speak merely from the notoriety of the fact, for, as the payments were made to the French Agent here, we have not any official means of knowing what salt was French property, and what was the property of English individuals.

"In case of any salt being imported upon captured vessels, we submit to your Lordship in Council that the captors be required to deliver the salt to our order. We do not mean by this proposition to affect any claim the captors may have to the value of such salt, but merely to prevent the Government monopoly being interfered with."

30. We directed the Board of Trade to receive in deposit all salt imported under regular French permits, keeping separate as well as in bulk accounts⁶ the quantities imported previous to the 10th of June, and the quantities that might have arrived subsequent to that time or in future, and we deem that no part of either should be paid for till we issued orders expressly for that purpose.

31. An application having been made to us by the commander of a neutral ship for freight of a cargo of salt brought round on his vessel from the coast of Coromandel consigned to Mr. Deverinne & Co., on account of the French company, half of which had been landed at the Company's *golahs* by order of Mr. Deverinne & Co., who in consequence of the notification of the war refused to give orders as to the remainder, we referred the business to the Board of Trade, whose answer was expressed as follows:

Consn. 28 June, No. 24.	"We have received Mr. Sub-Secretary Fombel's letter of the 21st instant referring to us copy of a letter from Captain Kent of the Danish ship <i>Elizabeth</i> , whose cargo is now landing at Sulkea.
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"Being fully of opinion that Captain Kent is entitled to the freight of the salt, we request your Lordship's sanction for paying it on a receipt being produced, countersigned by Mr. Deverinne. A separate account of it will be kept, and the amount may be hereafter deducted from the price of the salt, if ever payment for it shall be settled to be made to the French.

"We beg leave to acquaint your Lordship that on the 18th instant a snow called the *Hyder Bux* arrived with a cargo of salt, shipped by Mr. John Hall of Madras, and consigned to Mr. Deverinne, who refused to receive the salt or to pay the freight in consequence of the war. A person called Nineapah, the supposed owner of the vessel, having applied to us to know what was to be done with the salt, he was directed to land it at Sulkea, and to produce the permits under which it was imported. Nineapah in answer did not produce the permits, but referred to Mr. Deverinne for them.

"Having stated the above particulars we request your Lordship's instructions on the subject, observing at the same time that the bill of lading evidently shows that the salt was consigned to Mr. Deverinne, previous to the notifications of the war,⁹ who would in all probability, had it not being for this event, both have produced the permits and paid the freight."

32. Coinciding in the opinion delivered by the Board of Trade relative to the justice of Captain Kent's claim, we ordered that he should receive the amount of the freight which he had agreed for, and that he might be directed to land the remainder of the salt which had not been delivered at the Company's *golahs*.

Dutch

33. As soon as the intelligence of the war arrived here, a letter was written by the Governor General to the Director at Chinsurah to acquaint him with the events which had taken place in Europe, and with our determination in consequence. His Lordship's letter was expressed as follows:

"I think it proper to inform you that I have received intelligence this
 Consn. 11 June, morning by one of the Company's vessels which has
 No. 6. arrived from Suez, that war was declared against
 England and Holland by France on the 1st of last February.

"It can hardly be supposed that the people at Chandernagore, although they may receive early intelligence of this event, will venture to molest the settlement at Chinsurah; but, in that or any other case, you may be entirely certain that the friendship and alliance subsisting between our Governments will secure to you every assistance from us that you may require."

34. A letter was also dispatched to the Governor General at
 Consn. 21 June, Batavia by a private ship which sailed from hence to the
 No. 24. northwest coast of America, a few days subsequent
 to the arrival of the intelligence.

35. We transmit as a number in the packet a copy of a letter received from the Dutch Governor and Council at Cochin, representing to us that the
 Consn. 8 July, Fort of Cochin was not in a proper state of defence, in
 No. 16. case it should be attacked, as the whole garrison consisted
 only of eight hundred men, though a number not less
 than three thousand was requisite for the defence of the place; that they were uncertain of receiving succours from Batavia; and solicited our assistance as well under the terms of the last treaty as from a principle of mutual accommodation. They also requested a supply of salt provisions, peas and medicines.

36. We answered this letter by saying that we thought it no less our duty than it was our own inclination to assure the Governor and Council at Cochin that they might depend upon every degree of assistance and protection from us that could be expected from a nation that felt a warm concern about the interests of the Republic with which it was connected by the strongest ties of alliance and friendship; that under all the circumstances of the present state of political affairs in this country, we had no reason to apprehend that

Tippoo Sultaun would be disposed to renew his former connexions with the French nation ; and as we could not allow ourselves to doubt that we should soon have a decided naval superiority in these seas by the arrival of English and Dutch ships of war from Europe, we freely acknowledged that it appeared highly improbable to us that the French at Mauritius would venture, or be in a condition, to make an attempt upon Cochin,¹⁰ or any other settlement of either of our nations upon the continent of India.

37. That at the same time, in order to guard against all possible contingencies, we had sent instructions to the Commanding Officer of the troops on the coast of Malabar (a copy of which we enclosed for their satisfaction) to reinforce the Dutch garrison, if a requisition should be made to that effect, to the extent that in our opinion would be sufficient for the defence of the fort, in the event of their being able to supply such a garrison with provisions for three months from the Dutch magazines, and unless he should from circumstances with which we could not be acquainted have reason to believe that the safety of the Company's establishments on the Malabar Coast would be immediately endangered by his compliance with such a requisition.

38. We also informed the Governor and Council that as no ship from Bengal or Madras could for some time touch at Cochin, we had sent a copy of their indent for medicines to Bombay, with directions that they should be furnished from thence, and either sent to Cochin when an opportunity offered, or delivered to any person who might apply for them to that Government ; and that, if it had been in our power, we should, with equal readiness, have supplied them with the provisions that they required ; but that we had no articles of that kind in the stores at this place, nor did we know that they were to be found in the Company's magazines either at Madras or¹¹ Bombay.

39. We were therefore obliged upon that head to recommend to the Governor and Council to endeavour to obtain a stock of salted provisions and peas by private purchase at Madras or Bombay or elsewhere as they might think proper ; and we suggested to them that it might be useful to collect without loss of time a large number of sheep¹² in the neighbourhood of the fort, and to lay in a quantity of hay and gram for their support, in the event of its being necessary to bring them within the works, by which means the troops would, in case of a siege, require a less proportion of salted provisions, and at the same time, it would contribute very much to the healthiness of the European part of the garrison.

40. We transmit, as a number in the packet, a copy of the instructions sent from hence to the officer commanding His Majesty's and the Company's troops on the coast of Malabar for the regulation of his conduct, should the Dutch Government solicit assistance from him for the protection of Cochin.

We are,

Honorable Sirs,

Your most obedient humble servants.

Fort William,
13th August, 1793.

FOREIGN LETTER DATED 28 OCTOBER 1793

*Export of saltpetre prohibited except with special permission—
Danish protests.*

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for the affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Immediately upon the arrival of the intelligence relative to the war with France, we prohibited the exportation of saltpetre from hence, except with our special permission, conceiving that it was highly probable that the situation of affairs in Europe would render it necessary for us to send home a large supply on the ships of the season, and deeming it of importance that so necessary an article in time of war should not by any indirect means be conveyed to the enemy from this country.

2. An application was afterwards made by the Government at Tranquebar to Lord Cornwallis during His Lordship's stay at Madras for a relaxation of those orders in favor of the Danish nation.

3. His Lordship acquainted them that he had forwarded their letter to us; but that he could not flatter them with any hopes of their request being complied with.

4. Our answer was as follows: "Lord Cornwallis has transmitted to us the letter which you did us the honor of writing to us, dated the 28th ultimo, in which you request that we would so far depart from the embargo we had laid on the exportation of saltpetre from Bengal as to allow the necessary quantities of that article to be laden on the Danish ships bound to Copenhagen from India."

"We sincerely hope that our declining to comply with your request will not be attended with the ill consequences to the Danish trade which you apprehended. We are concerned to say that the present situation of affairs entirely puts it out of our power to make any addition to the quantity of saltpetre which had been hitherto allotted to the Danish East India Company, and that circumstances do not admit of our dispensing with the restriction (long since communicated to the Government at Fredericksnagore) which makes it necessary that a certificate be produced to the Custom Master in Calcutta from the agents of the Danish Company of proportions of the specific supplies actually received by the Danish Company from this Government being shipped on specific vessels before the exportation thereof is allowed."

Fort William,
28th of October, 1793.

We have the honor to be.

(Per Charlottee cutter.)

FOREIGN LETTER DATED 12 JANUARY 1794

Birch's administration of Chandernagore—Leaders guilty of violence removed from Chandernagore—Subsistence allowance to the French not to be enhanced.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We had the honor of writing to you from this Department on the 28th of October, 1793, by the *Charlotte* cutter.

French

2. Having in that letter, and in our address dated the 13th of August, detailed at considerable length the circumstances which had preceded and followed the taking possession of the French settlements in this country, we have now little more to add than a recital of those municipal regulations which necessity and the unsettled state of the French jurisprudence, owing to internal dissensions, have compelled us to frame or to adopt upon the suggestion of Mr. Birch, the Superintendent and Magistrate at Chandernagore.

3. In our letter of the 13th of August, para 11, we laid before you Mr. Birch's report to us on the administration of justice at that settlement under the late Government, and the regulations he proposed. And we now have the honor to transmit, as a number in the packet, a copy of a subsequent letter on the same subject, but more particularly upon that branch of it which relates to the management of the estates of intestates.

Consn. 1st Novem-
ber, No. 1.

4. The Superintendent details with great apparent accuracy the relative functions of the *Greffier*, Notary and Curator under the French law, and from his description and proposition we have been enabled to establish such regulations as seemed to us well calculated for the protection of the property and rights of individuals; the functions of the Law Departments are separated and so constituted as to be proper check upon each other.

5. We transmit, a number in the packet, a copy of the regulations proposed by Mr. Birch, which we approved, and directed him to carry into execution, inserting a copy of them in the French and English books of proceedings of the European Court at Chandernagore.

1st November,
No. 2.

6. You will observe, on our proceedings of the annexed date, a representation, laid before us by Mr. Birch, respecting his judicial duty at Chandernagore, and stating a necessity for his having some assistance to enable him to attend sufficiently to one of it, namely the *Jemadar's Cutcherry*. It was proper that

Consn. 1st Novem-
ber.

the person appointed his assistant in this part of the business should be qualified for the office by a knowledge of the country languages, and we nominated to it Mr. Edward Thoroton with an allowance of 250 rupees per mensem.

7. The season for the dispatch of the Company's ships so nearly approaching, Mr. Birch requested our attention to the situation of the French subjects who were directed to reside at Garetty, under a notice from the Governor General in Council that they would be sent either to Europe, to Pondicherry, or the Isle of France.

8. It was stated to be much their own wish that this intention should be carried into execution speedily, or that they might be allowed to return to their possessions and occupations at Chandernagore. The Superintendent observed that a material distinction might be made between the persons whom a connection in the same party (and in the effects of the struggle for power which had caused the distresses of that settlement) had involved in the same order for their removal from Chandernagore, and that Messrs. Richemont,¹ Maurevert and Louis had so repeatedly shewn the violence of their disposition towards the inhabitants differing from them in political principles that their removal to a distance was particularly expedient. With respect to the other gentlemen at Garetty, he thought it almost unimportant (if the three we have mentioned were sent away) how they were disposed of.

9. Mr. Maurevert has had permission, at his request, to proceed to the Isle of France, and we determined that Messrs. Richemont and Louis should be sent to Europe. They had notice accordingly, and we were solicited by the family of Mr. Richemont for leave to accompany him. To this we could have no objection, but we did not think ourselves justified in ordering a passage for them at your expence, although Mr. Richemont himself, as he would proceed upon an order of the Government, not at his own instance and desire, would be entitled to this accommodation. It was represented to us that he was totally destitute of the means of defraying the charge for their voyage, and a question then arose, under the confirmation of our resolution not to subject you to it, whether we should persist in our order for sending Monsieur Richemont to England, and thus separate him from his family, or allow him the option of remaining with them in Bengal. We determined from motives of humanity on the latter, and we suppose he has accepted it. And, as Mr. Louis, though not precisely in the same predicament, could not with any propriety be excluded from a similar consideration, the option was left to him also; he has preferred, in compliance with our first requisition, for his proceeding to Europe, and he goes in the *Hillsborough*. His passage money remains to be settled in England. Had the determination been made by us regarding it, we should have fixed it at the rate allowed by your regulations for the accommodation of writers in your service.

10. The Commander of the *Hillsborough* will report the arrival of Mr. Louis to you. He goes upon his parole, and our motive in sending him from this country was to remove from the settlement of Chandernagore a partizan, whose violence was a source of trouble and uneasiness to the inhabitants there.

11. On the subject of a representation from the French subjects at Ghyretty and of some at Chandernagore against Monsieur De Bretel, Deputy

to Mr. Birch, the Superintendent, we shall only refer to the proceedings specified, without troubling you with a detail which exhibits the violence of the French party spirit. The grounds of the complaints originated on the illness of the *Greffier* Mr. Pringault, who is dead; and upon the occasion we judged it proper to separate the two offices of *Greffier* and Notary held by him, and to appoint distinct persons for each. In nominating the persons to fill them, we gave equal attention to the wishes of the French and the characters of the individuals appointed.

12. On a representation of Monsieur Chenu,² a prisoner of war, that he was sued in the Supreme Court of Judicature, we were induced to order the Company's Attorney to interpose for his assistance, taking care that the Company were not subject to any claim thereby. It appeared to us that Monsieur Chenu was not an object of the Court's jurisdiction, and we did not think ourselves entitled to refuse the protection which he claimed. The proceedings are referred to in the margin.

13. The farm of the revenue of Chandernagore arising from the several duties, *salamies* and imports usual in the native governments had been held at the yearly rent of 27,200 *sicca* rupees, payable by monthly instalments; but the impediments which the farmer met with in the collection of the duty on cloths induced the French Government to retain the collection of this duty in their own hands, and to allow a deduction of a certain amount from the rent which had been agreed to by the farmer when that duty was included.

14. The lease expired on the 31st of December last.

15. We directed the Superintendent to put it up for the ensuing year to public auction according to usage, and to allot the farm accordingly.

16. Several applications having been made for augmentations of the subsistence to the French, we shall quote in this place a part of a letter written to us on the subject by the Superintendent at Chandernagore.—“I have one observation to make, which will apply against every petition for increase of allowances. When the misery which anarchy and confusion had for several years occasioned in Chandernagore extorted from Government a deviation from the first determination of allowing no subsistences but to military and to mariners taken in arms, I received orders to enquire into the situations of the several claimants, and to propose such allowances as I thought adequate to indispensable necessities. The greater part of the claimants had no other plea but their distresses, in proportioning relief to which it was not at all the intention of Government to maintain in affluence and idleness the subjects of an inimical nation, but to give such aid as would enable those who received it to exert their industry for their own benefit, the indispensable requisites for life being supplied. This purpose is fully answered to all who have subsistences, and therefore humanity does not at all oppose my duty in recommending that all petitions for augmentation of subsistences be returned as inadmissible”.

17. Our sentiments entirely coincided with the opinion of the Superintendent, and we passed a resolution accordingly.

Dutch

18. We transmit, as a number in the packet, a copy of a letter addressed to us by the Director and Council at Chinsurah requesting our assistance in procuring men to navigate a ship belonging to the Dutch East India Company from hence to Batavia. A copy of our answer will be also sent in the dispatches.

Consn. 16th Decem-
ber, No. 10.

Portuguese

19. We transmit to you in the packet a copy of a letter from Mr. De Souza, Governor of Mozambique, relative to the steps he had taken for assisting the unhappy sufferers who had been shipwrecked in the *H'interton* to enable them to reach some of the British settlements in India. His human intention was, however, unfortunately disappointed, as the vessel freighted for their accommodation was captured by the enemy. A copy of our answer to the Governor's letter is also enclosed, and we beg leave to refer to it as expressive of our sense of his conduct upon which our sentiments have been given in our advices to your Honorable Court by this dispatch from the Commercial Department.

Consn. 22d Novem-
ber, No. 10.

We have the honor to be,
Honorable Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servants,

Fort William,
the 12th January, 1794.

8

FOREIGN LETTER DATED 15 MAY 1794

Inability of the Company to render military assistance to the Dutch—Grant of a loan without interest to the Dutch—Nomination of Joy as the Consul of the United States of America at Calcutta.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for the affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. In addition to our letter of this date in the Political Department, we avail ourselves of the opportunity offered by the dispatch of the *Sugarcane* to communicate to you the following occurrences since our last address, recorded on our proceedings in the Foreign Department.

Spaniards

2. In February last, we received a letter dated 13th December, 1793, from His Excellency the Honorable Don Raphael Maria de Aguilar, Captain General for the Spanish nation at Mannilla, advising us of his having taken possession of his Government, and assuring us of his cordial reception of the commanders of all British vessels that might arrive at Mannilla, that the necessary protection would be given to facilitate the dispatch of their business, and that they should not experience the least impediment, adding that by doing so he should not only "comply with the orders of his Sovereign, but be able to shew his attachment to the English nation."

3. We had an opportunity, in the beginning of the past month, of returning a suitable answer to this friendly letter, acknowledging the very cordial assurances on his part, and adding, on ours, that we should always be ready to avail ourselves of every opportunity of making a proper return to His Excellency and the Spanish nation, as well as to manifest our personal esteem. Copies of the translation of this letter and our reply form a number in the accompanying list of packet.

Dutch

4. On the 15th ultimo the Director and Council of the Dutch East India Company forwarded to us a letter from their Government at Batavia, dated the 30th September, 1793, stating the danger their ships and possessions were exposed to from the force of the French cruisers in the straits of Sunda, and soliciting that we would afford them any aid in our power, as well as assist in supplying their settlement at Ceylon with rice, either by transporting it thither ourselves, or furnishing freight for the purpose.

5. To the first part of this application it was totally out of our power to shew any attention beyond what had been previously given to the ground of it by the employment of Captain Mitchell's squadron against our common enemy to the eastward, and we were also compelled to declare the impossibility of our giving the assistance desired in the transportation of rice to Ceylon.

6. We understood, however, by a conference which the Governor General had with one of the Chinsurah Council (Mr. Hanguitz) that it would be acceptable to them as well as to the Government of Batavia to be assisted with pecuniary supplies to enable them to purchase a sufficient quantity of rice to be transported by themselves to Columbo, and therefore wrote to assure them, in such case, of our readiness to afford any pecuniary assistance their exigencies might require.

7. This offer was thankfully accepted by the Director and Council, with an acknowledgement that they considered it a proof of our interest in the welfare of the Dutch Company; and they specified the sum of 63,000 *sicca* rupees as the sum they had engaged to pay for the rice required, adding that it would be convenient to them, if agreeable to us, to give bills of exchange for the above amount on Batavia.

8. We immediately transmitted them the usual treasury order for the sum desired, and wrote to them at the same time to the following effect: that

we were happy in having it in our power to afford them this accommodation under the local exigencies pointed out by them; but as it would be highly inconvenient to us to receive bills of exchange on Batavia, we begged leave to decline the acceptance of such and to request repayment at this Presidency when it might be convenient to them, which from the credit they had on the Council at Batavia we might hope for at an early period; and in this expectation we begged leave to tender the present loan without any claim of interest.

9. The above recapitulation contains the whole in substance of this transaction as far as it has yet gone; but we at the same time forward copies of the correspondence referred to for the more particular information of your Honorable Court if required.

America

10. The only remaining circumstance we have at present to communicate from this Department is the arrival of Mr. Benjamin Joy in the past month with a commission bearing the name of G. Washington, signed as President of the United States of America, and appointing Mr. Joy, with the advice and consent of the Senate, Consul of the United States of [for] Calcutta and other ports and places on the coast of India in Asia.

11. Mr. Joy advised us of his appointment under date the 3d April, and on the 13th transmitted his commission (of which a copy with copies of the other papers and proceedings referred to will be enclosed for your inspection), adding that the intentions of the American Government in granting it were amicable and humane, and requesting from us such countenance and assistance as would enable him to carry them into effect.

12. Having considered the foregoing letters with the credentials which accompanied them, we judged it incumbent on us to return the latter to him, and directed our Secretary to answer his addresses in the following terms:

"The Governor General in Council, having no instructions from England, does not think himself at liberty to admit Mr. Joy in the public character of a Consul entitled to privileges; but he may reside here as a Commercial Agent subject to the civil and criminal jurisdiction of this country; and the Governor General in Council will apply to the Honorable Court of Directors on the subject of Mr. Joy's address."

13. Mr. Joy's reply was merely an acknowledgement of the receipt of the above, but it will be found in the accompanying copies of the complete correspondence on this subject; and we doubt not that your Honorable Court will approve our proceedings as substantially reported in the above quotation of our resolution of the 21st ultimo, as well as that we shall receive early instructions for our future guidance.

We have the honor to be,
Honorable Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servants.

Fort William,
15th May, 1794.

(*Per Sugarcane.*)

FOREIGN LETTER DATED 31 MAY 1794

Danish claims to their old factory at Calicut.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for the affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. The only material occurrence recorded on our proceedings in this Department since our late address of the 15th instant by the *Sugarcane* (of which a triplicate is now forwarded by the *Boddington's*) is a claim preferred by the Danish Governor at Tranquebar to a factory and territory attached to it, formerly held by the Danish at Calicut, and the restoration of which, with former privileges, is now claimed under alleged *perwanahs* from the *Samoorry* and Tippoo Sultaun.

2. The accompanying extract of a letter from the Governor in Council at Bombay, and copies of the correspondence therein referred to, will inform your Honorable Court of the particulars of this claim, as far as it has been yet proceeded upon; and the following is the substance of them.

3. On the 9th December, 1793, Mr. William Brown addressed a letter to Mr. Farmer, then Supervisor of the province of Malabar, advising him of his appointment by the Royal Danish Government of Tranquebar to be their Agent at Calicut, with authority to request from the *Samorry* Rajah the restoration of the Danish factory with all its privileges; and for this purpose he had brought the requisite *perwanahs* of the *Samoorie* and Tippoo Sultaun to shew the right of his constituents to the factory and grounds adjoining to it; but that on his arrival at Calicut he found the Rajah had not the power of complying with his application without the permission of the English Government, which he hoped however to receive; and had written to Tranquebar to give information of the present state of the country.

4. In answer to this address, the Supravisor, on the 15th of the same month, informed Mr. Brown that the province of Malabar having been ceded by the last peace with Tippoo Sultaun to the Company, all claims of the nature described should be made to their representative, and that after being furnished with sufficient credentials of Mr. Brown's being empowered to act on the part of the Royal Danish Government of Tranquebar, he should at all times be ready to examine and answer freely whatever might be advanced in their behalf.

5. Instead, however, of furnishing the documents required, Mr. Brown, on the 30th January, transmitted an official protest against every encroachment on the original rights and privileges of the Danish factory at Calicut, transmitting at the same time a copy of the letter directing such [action] from the

Government of Tranquebar, and adding "I am likewise ordered to declare that the said Government has resolved to suspend every claim on this subject in India till such time as the representation of the Court of Denmark to the Court of Great Britain shall bring the matter to a decision consistent with equity and justice, established on the rights of nations."

6. To this protest Mr. Farmer repeated that the cause of his not having entered on a discussion or investigation of the claim preferred on the part of His Danish Majesty was his not having been apprized of the powers asserted by Mr. Brown to be vested in him; and that he was still willing to investigate it with any person regularly authorized and announced; adding, in answer to allegation contained in the letter from Tranquebar relative to the removal of the Danish flagstaff and dilapidation of the factory buildings, that the former long preceded the arrival of Mr. Agnew (to whom it was charged) at Calicut, and the latter were destroyed by the officers, and probably under the orders of Tippoo Sultaun, the timbers having been applied to buildings in his new town of Firokia.¹

7. This reply appears to have closed the correspondence between Mr. Farmer and Mr. Brown; but the Governor in Council at Bombay has since received a letter from the Danish Government at Tranquebar, dated the 31st March, 1794, notifying "that William Brown is appointed His Danish Majesty's Agent at Calicut, with orders to take under his management the Danish factory and territory belonging thereto", and requesting directions for his being received accordingly, adding, "the resolution we had taken to lay the case before His Majesty with all its circumstances we will now defer till we are informed of the steps your Government shall think proper to take with regard to His Majesty's rights."

8. The Governor in Council at Bombay having acquainted us that he has directed the Supravisor of the Malabar Province (now Mr. Stephens) to treat with Mr. Brown as Danish Agent, and enter on a discussion of the claim preferred, we wait the result of their instructions, which the Supravisor was ordered to report.

9. In the meantime however we have thought it necessary to remark to the Governor in Council that the principal point to be ascertained appears to us to be whether the possession of the factory by the Danes was completely done away by Tippoo Sultaun previous to our acquisition of it, as in that case, whatever may have been their original right, we conceived, they cannot now have any just title to it. On this point, therefore, we have suggested, the Supravisor should be instructed to obtain the fullest and most incontrovertible evidence, that every plea in objection to the fact, if established, may be satisfactorily obviated.

Fort William,
31st May, 1794.

We have the honor to be,
Honorable Sirs,
Your most obedient and faithful servants.

(Per Boddington.)

FOREIGN LETTER DATED 18 AUGUST 1794

Prize law : certain French vessels, though captured on the high seas, re seized by the Company's troops on the Hooghly to preserve legal formalities—Doubts as to who were entitled to the benefit of the prize money, the original captors or the Company's troops.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors,

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have the honor to transmit to you by the *Nancy* packet copies of our advices from this Department by the *Sugarcane* and *Boddington* on the 15th and 31st of May, and our proceedings in it from the 27th of December, 1793, to the 30th of June, 1794.

French

2. The vessels mentioned in the margin having been taken on the coast of Coromandel and in the Bay of Bengal at the commencement of the war, and sent to this Presidency for the purpose of their being condemned as prizes, we applied to the Advocate General for his opinion as to the mode in which we should proceed to prevent future litigation, while we preserved your rights inviolate and left to the captors such advantages as they might be entitled to by law. It was the opinion of the Advocate General and your Standing Counsel (upon a consultation held between them) that such ships as had been captured at sea beyond the limits to which the admiralty jurisdiction of the Supreme Court then extended could not be legally condemned in that Court; and, as there was no other admiralty jurisdiction in India by which the condemnation of these vessels could be sanctioned, they concurred in recommending, with a view to the condemnation here, that a second seizure might be made in this river by the Company's troops. They had doubts of the sufficiency of the condemnation even after taking the step they proposed, which they agreed in advising merely because it must be very expensive (and perhaps impossible owing to the state of the vessels) to send them to Europe for the purpose of their being condemned in England; and, upon due consideration of the circumstances, the Government directed that the vessels should be put up to public sale.

3. Some gratuity was desired by the party sent on the above mentioned service; but it was thought improper to admit a right to prize money on the seizure of vessels that made no resistance, when the duty was merely to board and take possession of them, which might have been done by a few peons, it the Charter of George the 2d., granted in 1758, and yielding to the Company the benefit of captures, had not made it necessary that a *military force belonging to the Company* should be employed on such occasions.

4. The Honorable Court of Directors, in their General Letter to Bengal dated the 3d of March, 1758, after observing that the Company, in virtue of this grant, were entitled to the whole of the plunder and booty which should be taken in wars, hostilities or expeditions by the Company's own land or sea forces, directed that the plunder or booty so taken should be divided (with an exception as to military stores &c.) into two parts, one moiety whereof should be given to the captors, and the other moiety carried to the credit of the Company; but it could not be seriously imagined that any such captures as those in question, if they could be admitted to bear that name, were in the contemplation of the Company when the order was issued.

5. It was therefore determined that a distinct account should be kept of all captures that had been already made, or might be made, in the course of the present war, that we might be enabled to ascertain the exact amount, in case any suit of law should be commenced against the Company, either here or in England, for the recovery of prize money, and that we might be better prepared to execute any orders you might send to us as to the disposal of the sums so deposited.

6. The other circumstances for your consideration seem to be how far the Company are in equity entitled to the profits arising from captures not made by their troops in the first instance, when the hazard (if any existed) was incurred but afterwards in the river without expence or danger and merely for the purpose of laying a legal foundation for their condemnation; and next in what mode, and according to what standard, such prize money should be divided, should you eventually think proper to deliver it up for the advantage of the original captors.

7. The proper measures have been taken by your law officers to procure the condemnation of other French ships that have been captured, and the whole of the proofs has been completed. Nothing therefore now remains but to proceed to a hearing, which can only take place, according to the necessary forms, during the term. These causes will be amongst the first tried in the term ensuing, so that all the forms will most probably have been completed by the 15th of next November.

La Bien Aimie.
Snow Chandernagore.
Brig Nestor. Snow
Bienfaisant.

Dutch

8. The Governor in Council of Bombay has probably transmitted to your Honorable Court the particular of a correspondence with the Government of Cochin on a representation from Captain Archibald Blair that the *Union* snow, a private vessel belonging to him and under his command, had been fired on by the Dutch Commodore in Cochin Roads; but we shall enclose copies of the several papers that we received from Bombay on this subject. We have only to remark upon it that the transaction, as it was laid before us, did not appear to require any further notice; and that the usual and necessary distrust of all vessels under whatever colours in time of war seemed to justify the cautions observed at Cochin with respect to Captain Blair on his entrance into that harbour, although under an erroneous supposition of a possible breach between the two nations, he misapprehended their object and purpose.

Spaniards

9. We shall forward in the packet translations of two letters addressed to us by the late and present Captains General of Manilla, the former communicating his recall to Europe, and the approbation given by the King of Spain to the measure of opening the port of Manilla to all European nations; the latter reporting the seizure of the private ship *Ceres* by some Frenchmen and soldiers at Manilla, and the assistance, though ineffectual, that was afforded to the commander, Captain Wright, to recover the property. We shall make our acknowledgements to the Governor of Manilla for this mark of attention to a ship under English colours, when an opportunity offers of writing to that place.

Portuguese

10. We have received a letter from the new Viceroy of Goa, Don Francisco Da Nigon Cabral, advising us of his having taken charge of that Government under an appointment from the crown of Portugal, and assuring us of his intention to promote the friendship which has so long subsisted between our respective sovereigns, to which we returned a suitable answer; and we shall enclose copies of both the letters numbers in the packet.

Fort William,
the 18th of August, 1794.

We have the honor to be &c.

(*Per Nancy.*)

11

FOREIGN LETTER DATED 18 AUGUST 1795

Prize cases—Alleged insult to the Danish flag.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors &c.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Our last address to you from this Department was dated the 18th of August, 1794, and sent by the *Nancy* packet, with our proceedings to the 30th June, 1794.

2. We have now the honor to communicate to you the few material transactions which have since occurred.

French

3. As some applications had been preferred to us by French individuals for permission to go to the Isle of France, we thought it proper on the date noticed in the margin to record a resolution that no application from the French subjects for leave to proceed to the Isle of France should, in future, be complied with.

14th November.

4. In the 7th paragraph of our last address we advised your Honorable Court that proper measures had been taken by your law officers to procure the condemnation of the French vessels noticed in the margin. We have now the honor of acquainting you that a judgement of condemnation was pronounced against the whole of them on the 10th November, 1794.

Bien Aimé, Chandernagore, Bienfaisant, Nestor (Nestor).

5. We transmit for your information copies of a letter addressed to us by the Superintendent at Chandernagore, our letter in consequence to the Governor in Council of Fort St. George, two letters with enclosures received in answer from the latter relative to the conduct of the persons authorized by the Madras Government to preside in the European Tribunal at Pondicherry. We have referred these papers for the opinion of the Advocate General on the several points of law contained in them, and shall hereafter communicate to you his report with our resolutions upon it.

13th April, 15th June, 6th July.

6. We also transmit for the information of your Honorable Court copies of our correspondence with the Government of Fort St. George, and the opinion of our Advocate General, on the subject of certain property seized by Captain W. Mears of the ship *Favourite* in the roads of Pondicherry in April, 1794, and advised by the late Madras Government to be restored. The papers on this question were sent round to us under the expectation of an action being commenced against the Company by Captain Mears; but, as we have received no notice of any such suit having been instituted, it is unnecessary to detail the circumstances of the case, though we think it proper to transmit the papers, and particularly the opinions of your law officers at Madras and this Presidency, for the notice of your Honorable Court, as discussing a question of importance, the right of the Supreme Court and other courts of judicature in India to try causes of prize jurisdiction without special commission from the Admiralty.

22d June, 20th July.

Dutch

7. We transmit for the information of your Honorable Court copies of a correspondence with the Director and Council of Chinsurah in consequence of our determination in September, 1794, that the usual supplies of saltpetre to the foreign companies should, for the present, be withheld. We have not judged it necessary to return any reply to their last letter on the subject, dated the 18th October, 1794, stating the grounds on which they claim an absolute right to the annual supply of 23,000 maunds.

October 6th, 17th, 24th, 1794.

8. The Government of Batavia addressed a letter to us by

Mitchell dated 20th June, 1794, of which we have the honor to forward a copy, expressing their satisfaction with the quality of the opium received by them, of the manufacture of 1793, but stating some objections to the package of it, which we referred to the Board of Trade. We complied with the application for the usual allotment of 500 chests for 1794.

Danes

9. We transmit to you also copies of a correspondence with the agents for the Danish Company in consequence of the determination already mentioned prohibiting the supplies of saltpetre to the foreign companies.

September 29th, 1794, February 13th, March 2d 1795.

10. Previous to this determination, the Danish agents had received 12,000 maunds of saltpetre in 1794; and thinking it probable that, in consequence of the embargo laid upon this article, it might be agreeable to them to redeliver the above quantity to the Company on receiving payment of the price and the charge incurred upon it with interest, at the same [time] that such a supply would be convenient for the Company, we made them a tender to this effect, which they accepted, and the saltpetre was returned and paid for accordingly.

11. Their usual allotment of 200 chests of opium for the past year was applied for, and ordered to be furnished, agreeably to usage.

February 13th, 1795.

12. Colonel Bie, the Chief of Fredericksnagore, having addressel us respecting a supposed insult to the Danish flag by the seizure of a vessel under the command of Mr. James Prescott, who was stated to have made himself a subject to the King of Denmark, we desired the Company's Attorney to ascertain and report the circumstances, which he did accordingly. And it appeared, first, that the ship seized belonged to a British subject, and was British property; secondly, that the seizure was made under the process and authority of the Supreme Court, when the vessel was at anchor within the British dominion; and, thirdly, that Mr. Jones, the person charged with the alleged insult, positively denied all actual or intentional insult to the Danish flag or Government, and that his affidavit was fully supported by that of the Sheriff's officer.

April 3d, 10th, 17th.

13. These circumstances we communicated to Colonel Bie, with an intimation that the question of the right of seizure could not be determined by us, but must rest with the Supreme Court, to whom Mr. Prescott, if he deemed himself injured, might apply; and should his complaint appear well founded, we were persuaded he would receive ample redress.

14. From the accompanying copies of our correspondence on the subject, your Honorable Court will observe that this answer was not considered satisfactory to Colonel Bie, who stated his intention of reporting the transaction to his superiors in Europe. We doubt not, however, the papers transmitted will fully evince the propriety and necessity of our conduct.

Fort William,
the 18th. of August, 1795.

We have the honor to be &c.

FOREIGN LETTER DATED 31 OCTOBER 1795

Exchange of war prisoners with the French.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for the affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. The only circumstance we have to communicate to you from this Department, in addition to our letter of the 18th August, of which a copy will be forwarded by this dispatch, is the receipt of a letter from the Governor General of the French Islands, addressed to Lord Hobart, but brought here by an American ship, with a list of British subjects carried prisoners to the Isle of France and permitted to return to India on their paroles.

2. Mr. Malartic, in this letter, of which a copy will be forwarded to you with the list enclosed in it, having requested the return of an equal number of French officers, and particularly of Mr. La Boilleu, taken by the squadron under Commodore Mitchell, we have directed information to be given to the latter that he is at liberty to proceed to the Isle of France on a neutral ship when he thinks proper; and have instructed the Superintendent at Chandernagore to report the names of an equal number of any other subjects of France on parole here, of the same rank in life with the British subjects specified in Mr. Malartic's list, to whom it would be agreeable to proceed to the Isle of France, and whom we propose to allow to return thither accordingly.

Fort William,
31st October, 1795.

We have the honor to be,
Honorable Sirs,
Your most faithful humble servants.

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 25 JANUARY 1792

Campaign against Tipu: meagre efforts of the Allies—Payment of peshkash to the Nizam in respect of the Northern Circars—Certain pilgrims and funeral parties exempted from paying local duties at Benares, Allahabad and Gaya.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have the honor to forward to you by the *Kent* a continuation of our proceedings subsequent to those transmitted by the *Queen* and the other papers mentioned in the list of the packets.

*Fort St. George, Bombay, the Nabob Nizam Ally Khan,
the Marattas and Tippoo Sultaun.*

2. We beg leave to refer you to our proceedings of the annexed dates, which contain letters from Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell to Major Close^d, the Deputy Adjutant General, giving an account of his operations upon being detached from the Grand Army, his success against Pinagra, an attack made by the troops under his command on the strong fort of Kistnagherry, their capture of the *pettah* and lower fort, and the resistance at the upper one, which disappointed the gallant attempt to get immediate possession of that also.

14th December.

Consn. 9th and 14th December.

3. The report made by the Chief Engineer, who had been ordered with a detachment to reconnoitre those parts of Sevendroog which there had not been an opportunity of examining when the army were encamped in the neighbourhood of it in July 1791, having encouraged Lord Cornwallis to determine upon the attack of that formidable post, Lieutenant Colonel Stuart was sent against it, and we have great pleasure in acquainting you, succeeded in a few days in carrying it by assault without any loss whatever on our part on the 21st of last month.

Consn. 30th December.

Consn. 20th January.

4. Immediately after the capture of Sevendroog^d, Captain Welsh was directed to march with two battalions to endeavour to avail himself of the enemy's panic, and get possession of the strong and important hill fort of Ramgherie, situated on the Chinapatam road, which is said to be the strongest and the principal route from Bangalore to Seringapatam. Captain Welsh was totally unprovided with artillery, but, by his spirited and judicious conduct, intimidated the garrison, who, upon seeing him advance to the attack, called out for *cowle*, and surrendered the place on the 30th of last month.

Consn. 20th January.

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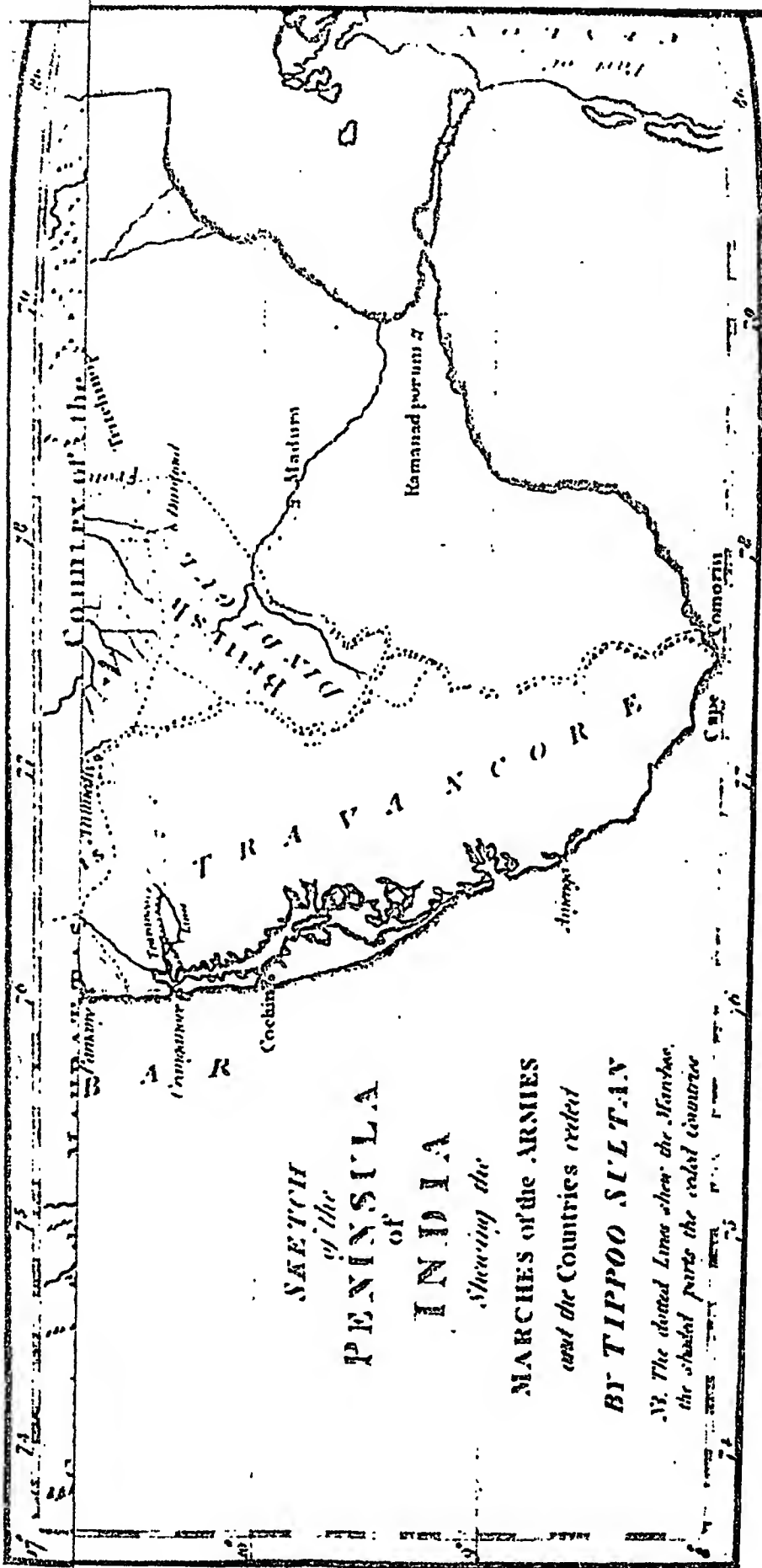
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5. We have also the satisfaction to report a successful assault made on the 24th upon the fort of Otterydroog by the troops under command of Lieutenant Colonel Stuart, who carried it after scaling six walls with the loss of only two men slightly wounded.

Consn. 20th January.

6. The reinforcements and several convoys from the Carnatic have arrived, we have the pleasure to inform you, safely at Bangalore.

7. You were acquainted in our last advices that Major Cuppage, upon his march to the relief of Coimbatore³, had an action with the enemy, whom he repulsed, and afterwards returned to Palicacherry. Lord Cornwallis's letter to Major Cuppage, upon this occasion, will be found in our consultations of the 9th of last month.

Cons. 9th December.

We are concerned to advise you that Lieutenant Chalmers, who had so gallantly defended Coimbatore against the enemy's attack upon it, was obliged to surrender it to Cummer Ul Deen Cawn on the 3d of November. The terms of the capitulation were that himself and garrison should march out with their private property unmolested, and be immediately escorted to Palicacherry to proceed to the Coast; that they should not act against Tippoo during the present war; and that all the guns, ammunition and stores, and all public property, should be delivered to them.

Consn. 14th December.

8. These terms however were immediately violated by Cummer Ud Deen Khaun for, instead of the garrisons being marched, as had been agreed, with an escort, towards Palicacherry, they were carried in a different direction, and kept prisoners, until the orders of Tippoo should be received in what manner to dispose of them. Our next intelligence informed us that they had been conducted, under a guard of two *cushoons*, towards Seringapatam. The enemy destroyed the fort of Coimbatore.

Consn. 28th December.

9. On the 24th of November a letter was written by Major Cuppage to Lord Cornwallis, advising His Lordship that Cummer Ul Deen Cawn had marched on the 21st with his army, leaving about 200 Carnatics at Coimbatore, and that, as soon as certain intelligence should be received of his having ascended the *ghauts*, these Carnatics should be dispossessed, and driven out of the Coimbatore District.

10. It was also proposed to dislodge the enemy from Errode, Sattimungulum, and Demicottah⁴, from whence they had drawn considerable supplies; but Major Cuppage did not think that, with the small forces he could spare from Palicacherry, it would be safe to attempt taking possession of these places; and he suggested, therefore, that, as Tippoo would have sufficient employment in defending his capital, a considerable reinforcement might be spared out of the garrisons of Dindigul and Carore, so as to form a respectable detachment in the Coimbatore country⁵, and if the Collectors of those two districts were ordered to assemble their poligars they might be of great service in clearing the country, and collecting cattle from the enemy on the north side of the Cavery for the use of the army under Lord Cornwallis.

Consn. 11 January.

11. His Lordship observed that it would no doubt be very desirable, if it could be effected, to dislodge the enemy from Errode, Sattimungulum, and

Damiacottah; but that he thought it would be very imprudent to fix posts so much within the enemy's reach as either of these places until a body of your troops should have established themselves on the south side of the Cavery opposite to Seringapatam.

12. In a subsequent letter to Sir Charles Oakley⁶, upon a proposal made by Major Cuppage, His Lordship took notice that if the enemy could be deprived of the supplies of grain, of which they stood so much in need, from the country below the *ghauts* by any steps the Major could take without putting the southern garrisons in danger, the measure would be very advisable.

13. We shall transmit, a number in the packet, a copy of a narrative delivered by Mr. William Drake, formerly Midshipman of the *Hannibal*, and other prisoners who were taken [in the] last war and have lately made their escape from Tippoo Sultaun, containing an account of the treatment they had experienced, and of the fate (as far as they knew or had heard) of many other prisoners, as well as of some deserters, who had been in Tippoo's possession. It appeared that, after the narrative was written, two other prisoners, Barratt and Makenzie, had effected their escape from Chitteldroog⁷.

14. The letters which we have received since our last advices from Sir John Kennaway⁸, and Lieutenant Stuart, who resides with Nizam Ally Khan at Paangul, will be found on our proceedings of the
 Consn. 7th, 9th, 14th 16th, 23d, 28th December. annexed dates, and such of the most material as are not recorded on the consultations transmitted with this dispatch will be sent number in the packet.

15. You were acquainted in our dispatches by the *Queen* that the lower forts of Gurrumcondah⁹ had been stormed on the night of the 7th of November by the English detachment under Captain Read, and carried with inconsiderable loss, and without much opposition from the garrison. A particular account of the assault will be found in Captain Read's letter to Sir John Kennaway, dated the 9th of November, and recorded on our proceedings of the 14th ultimo.

16. Various pretexts, notwithstanding this event, continued to delay the march of the Minister¹⁰, with the Nizam's son, Secunder Jah, and Sir John Kennaway, to the southward. They were joined by the Ellore detachment on the 28 of November, but it was the 28th December before they prosecuted their route towards Lord Cornwallis's army, and they had not advanced far when the sudden appearance of the enemy in their rear, not only prevented for the present their further progress, but made it necessary for them to return to Gurrumcondah where last advices still left them.

17. The first intelligence which we received of this untoward event was contained in a letter from Lieutenant Stewart, which informed us that about the 20th of last month Govind Row Kishen and Azim Khan (the former the Peshwa's *Vakeel* at the Nizam's Court, and the latter a son of the Nabob of Kurnoul) being attacked on the south side of Gurrumcondah by a large body of the enemy's horses, and overpowered by numbers, they took post until they could obtain a reinforcement from Hafez Ferid ud Deen (the Officer

Commanding at Gurrumcondah) who dispatched Rajah Joyd Sing to their assistance with about 200 horse. In the interim the first party, after defending themselves as long as they could, effected their escape. Joyd Sing was next attacked and routed, and the enemy advancing to the fort fell in with Hafez Ferid Udiën, who was hastening to reinforce the Rajah, took him prisoner, and dispersed his troops.

18. The party was commanded by Hyder Saheb, one of Tippoo's sons, who easily got possession, after this misfortune, of the lower fort of Gurrumcondah. It was, however, as easily reobtained on the return of the Minister before it, Hyder Saheb with his force (which was said to have consisted of 10,000 cavalry though better accounts state it at only 5 or 6,000) having moved from that quarter about the 23d of last month. Hafez Ferid Udiën is succeeded in the command at Gurrumcondah by Assud Ally Khân.

19. Before Sir John Kennaway left Paangul¹¹ the Nizam had, in general terms, mentioned his intention of moving on himself as far as Gunjycottah about the middle of this month; and it was afterwards settled that the 1st of *Jemad ul Awwal* (about Christmas) should be the day for His Highness to repair to his tents:

Consn. 23d, 28th
December.

that he would advance by slow marches as far as Gurrum Coondah, from whence his motions would be regulated by Lord Cornwallis's and the Minister's advice, and that His Highness had intimated his purpose of moving on, generally, to Balajee Pundit¹², which he hoped might conduce to the Peshwa's advancing also. But we have recent advices that His Highness had not entered his tents on the 1st of this month.

20. We were advised, in a letter dated the 2d ultimo from Lord Cornwallis to Sir Charles Oakley, of His Lordship's having received information from Captain Little that Purseram Bhow was so much indisposed that there were no hopes of his being soon able to comply with the request His Lordship

Consn. 30th Decem-
ber.

had made, that he would advance and take a position on the right flank of the army between Sera and Shevagunga. His Lordship observed that this unforeseen and critically unfortunate event deranged his immediate measures very much, and that, as the Marattas were intended to join General Abercromby¹³ for the purpose of enabling him to establish himself on the other side of the river before Seringapatam, the ultimate consequences might become very embarrassing unless the Bhow could be prevailed upon either to give up, for a time, the command of the army to his son, or to send him forward with the Bombay Battalions, and a considerable corps of cavalry.

21. Lord Cornwallis was, afterwards, advised by Captain Little that the Bhow had declared that, although he disapproved of the Sera road on account of the scarcity of forage, he would, as soon as he learnt that Hurry Punt joined with His Lordship in the requisition, either march himself, or, should he be unable to move, detach his son with a considerable force to the station His Lordship recommended. Lord Cornwallis had been assured by Hurry Punt that he had urged the Bhow to comply with his request, so that we have no doubt of that movement's being settled according to his wishes. Had it taken place when it was first planned, Hyder Saheb could not have moved his troops in the direction he did, or have created the alarm which we have noticed.

22. The advices which we have received from your Resident at Poona since our letter by the *Queen*¹⁴ will be found on our Consn. 14th, 16th, 21st, 23d December. proceedings of the annexed dates, and such of the most material as are not recorded on the consultations transmitted with your present dispatch will be sent numbers in the packet.

23. Among those now forwarded, your Honourable Court will receive a copy of a statement prepared by your Accountant General of the sum due to His Highness the Nabob Nizam Ally Khan on account of the *peishcush* for the Northern Circars up to the close of the *Fussily* year¹⁵ 1200, ending in September 1791, and a Consn. 28th December. copy of a letter which we wrote to the Government of Fort St. George on the 28th ultimo to advise them that at the recommendation of Sir John Kennaway we had agreed to transfer the payment of the *peishcush* from Masulipatam to Madras, and to request that they would undertake the regular discharge of it, and of the arrears due upon it, granting bills on us for the amount if the state of their funds should require it.

24. We have the honor to lay before you in this dispatch an extract of a letter, dated the 13th of last month, which we received from the Government of Fort St. George, with a copy of one written to the Resident at Anjengo by the Resident and Factors at Tellicherry on the 22d of November, and an extract of a letter from the Resident at Calicut to Mr. Powney¹⁶, the Resident at Travancore, concerning an engagement off Mangalore between His Majesty's ship *Phoenix*, commanded by Sir Richard Strachan, and a French frigate. We could have wished to have had it in our power to furnish your Honorable Court with a more satisfactory account of so important an affair, but, at present, our official information concerning it is comprized in the scanty notices to which we have referred.

25. In our proceedings of the 23d ultimo, a letter is recorded bearing date the 6th of November from Mr. Taylor, the Chief at Tellicherry, to the Governor in Council at Bombay, explaining, as far as regards him, the circumstances which have reference to the capture of the Arab vessel on the Malabar Coast by His Majesty's frigate the *Phoenix* when commanded by Captain Byron. A copy of Mr. Taylor's letter has been transmitted to Lord Cornwallis.

Mahajee Sindia, the Nabob Vizier, and the Upper Provinces.

26. We shall transmit to you in the packet a copy of some papers that are recorded upon our proceedings of the 13th instant upon a claim set up by Scindia against certain persons residing within the jurisdiction of the city of Benares. They contain translation of the letters from Mahajee Sindia, a copy of one from Mr. Duncan¹⁷, and the instructions that we sent upon the subject, both to him and to Major Palmer¹⁸, Resident at Sindia's Court.

27. Besides the exemptions allowed from the payment of duties at Ghya, as noticed in our former advices, we have given orders, at the request of Consn. 13th January. Ragojee Boosla, that his son and brother (with their attendants) who were proceeding with Ragojee's mother upon a pilgrimage to Benares, Ghya and Illahabad may be excused from those duties, and we have desired that proper attention and respect may be shewn to these persons while they remain in Benares and Bahar.

28. We have also authorized an exemption from duties, at the request of Sindia, to the attendants of Goconda Jee Sindia, who has charge of the bones of one of Mahajee Sindia's wives. The bones of this lady were to be deposited at Ghya.

29. The Resident at Lucknow acquainted us, in a letter dated the 7th instant, that, at the desire of Shaw Allum, the Nabob Vizier had agreed to increase His Majesty's *Khaussah* money to 3,000 rupees a month. It was before 1,800. It was also proposed that 500 ruppes a month more might be assigned, as *Khaussah*, to His Majesty's eldest son, Acbar Shah, and that *Nuzzers* might be sent on the *Eeds &ca.* to him as the declared heir, in the same manner as they are presented to the Shaw. But these requests, in favor of Acbar Shaw, were not immediately agreed to by the Nabob, His Excellency apprehending that his compliance might hereafter be drawn into a precedent in favor of other princes.

Fort William,
25th January, 1792.

We have the honor to be &ca.

(Per Kent.)

14

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 8 APRIL 1792

Campaign against Tipu : mutual distrust of the Allies—Conclusion of the Treaty of Seringapatam : surrender of the two sons of Tipu ; payment of the first instalment of the war indemnity—Mahadji Sindia's proposed visit to Poona—The Vazir of Oudh in arrears regarding payment of his dues to the Company—Complaint from the Raja of Assam that a local chieftain who had revolted against his authority was supported by mercenaries from Bengal.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have the honor to transmit to you by the *Dutton* a continuation of our proceedings in this Department between the 4th of January and the 28th of March, the annual set thereof for 1791, and the other papers mentioned in the list of packet.

*Fort St. George and Bombay, Nizam Ally Khan,
the Mahrattas and Tipoo Sultaun.*

2. In our consultations of the annexed dates your Honorable Court will perceive in the correspondence between Lord Cornwallis and your Resident at Hydrabad the many difficulties His Lordship had to combat in prevailing upon Nizam Ally Khan to make the requisite co-operations for a vigorous and successful prosecution of the war. Remonstrances upon the same subject were likewise delivered by your Resident at Poona on the procrastinating

Consn. 25th January,
3rd February.

conduct observable in the Mahrattas, but without producing an immediate, though certainly they had an ultimate, effect. Purseram Bhow openly stated as his excuse for not moving to the southward that the price of provisions in the combined army had been doubled on its advancing one march; that Hurry Punt's troops were greatly distressed and the cavalry under that chief fully equal to any services Lord Cornwallis might require; and, in addition to these, a more forcible pretext was used—the want of money; but, in proportion as the real existence of this obstacle would have been an admissible plea, so the reverse, as to the fact, rendered the delay doubly mortifying. Such indeed was the procrastinating spirit of both the Allies that might have excited a suspicion of their having very different pursuits from the avowed objects of the alliance, if the jealousy which had apparently subsisted between them during the whole war had not entirely precluded every apprehension of the kind. This mutual distrust would also appear to have contributed in some degree to the success of the general cause, since among the other good consequences of it may be reckoned the emulation excited by their mutual recriminations on the complaints made of their backwardness and delays by your Residents at their respective Courts.

3. It was however apprehended more than once that this obvious want of cordiality between the native Allies would have been attended with serious mischief, especially when we discovered by several letters

Consn. 16th March. from Lieutenant Stewart at Pangul that some of the troops under Purseram Bhow had actually taken possession of Canneegherry and other places near Kopul, which had been reduced [in] 1790 by Dara Jah, and the two battalions under Captain Read. The conduct of the Mahrattas upon this occasion was so sensibly felt by the Nizam that he directed Kooney Punt, the Peshwa's agent at Pangul, to represent to the Bhow the impropriety of their seizures, and threatened that, if they were not speedily relinquished, he should send Hushmut Jung to recover them by force. We were glad to hear that soon afterwards, Kooney Punt was authorized to assure His Highness, in his master's name, that peremptory orders had been dispatched to the Bhow to adhere strictly to the treaty, and, on no account, to make encroachments on the Nizam's possessions.

4. In the month of January a party of the enemy's irregular horse, consisting of about 500, made their appearance suddenly in the Carnatic, but continued there too short a time to do much mischief.

Consn. 8th February.

5. Advices from Major Cuppage mentioned that he had fully accomplished the instructions which he had received from Lord Cornwallis respecting the manner in which the detachment under his command was

Consn. 15th February, 22nd February. to be employed below the *ghauts*. After the capture of Damien Cottah on the 16th of February, the Major proceeded against Sattymungalum, which, together with

Errode, were found to have been evacuated by the enemy.

6. In our proceedings of the 10th of February a translation is recorded of a letter from Tippoo Sultaun to Lord Cornwallis, and of His Lordship's answer.

Consn. 10th February.

7. We have much satisfaction in laying before you the particulars of a



victory obtained by the Bombay detachment acting with the Mahrattas, and commanded by Captain Little, over a considerable body of the enemy, in the neighbourhood of Simoga. They are stated in a letter from Captain Little to Lord Cornwallis dated the 31st December, 1791, and entered on the consultation noted in the margin.

8. The immediate consequence of this advantage over Ally Ruzza was the surrender of the important fortress of Simoga, which was soon followed by that of its dependencies, Coomsee and Anundpore¹, places of considerable strength and local importance. The capture of these forts, at the same time that it yielded the Mahrattas a very desirable supply of guns, ammunition and grain, was also of infinite service in intercepting the enemy's supplies from the fertile northwest provinces. It likewise conduced to inspire Lord Cornwallis with well-founded hopes that the Bhow's co-operation would, by this means, be facilitated in a greater degree than the route which he had taken and formerly have afforded any reason to expect.

9. It was about this time, when, after the repeated and pressing instances [insistence] of His Lordship, the Nizam's son and Minister had made good their junction with the Grand Army, that Tippoo Sultaun, aware of the storm that was gathering round him, again addressed Lord Cornwallis on the subject of peace. We shall enclose a copy of the correspondence in separate numbers of the packet, together with a copy of the letters which passed, on the same occasion, between Tippoo and Hurry Punt and the Peshwa, wherein the former proposes that the difference respecting the capitulation of Coimbatoor might be adjusted at the same time with the terms of a general peace. But Hurry Punt and Azeem ul Omrah² concurred with great earnestness in opinion with His Lordship that justice as well as a due regard to the honor of the confederates required that atonement for so flagrant a breach of faith should be insisted on previous to all negotiation.

10. A letter from Captain Oliver, the Commanding Officer at Severndroog, addressed to Sir Charles Oakely gave us the first tidings of the glorious success obtained by Lord Cornwallis over the enemy on the night of the 6th of February by forcing his intrenched encampment, which had cost him many months in fortifying, and by effecting a lodgement on the island of Seringapatam.

11. We have the honor to transmit in the packet a copy of His Lordship's letter giving an account of this signal success, together with the returns of the Adjutant General and Commanding Officer of Artillery, containing lists of the killed and wounded, and of the ordnance taken on this occasion.

12. The impression made by this brilliant and decided advantage on the mind of Tippoo Sultaun appeared almost immediately in his yielding to Lord Cornwallis's late call upon him to comply with the terms of capitulation at Coimbatoor and by his sending Lieutenant Chalmers and five other persons who had surrendered at that place into His Lordship's camp on the 8th of February, accompanied by a messenger who was charged with a letter suing for peace. A translation of this letter will be sent a number in the packet, with a copy of His Lordship's answer. A copy

of our letter to Lord Cornwallis upon the occasion of the successful attack made in the night of the 6th of February on the enemy's camp is enclosed. The various successes of the army have been notified, as usual, to Shaw Allum, the Vizier, and other country powers.

13. You will perceive in our consultation of the 9th ultimo, upon referring to the advices from Lord Cornwallis of the 12th of February, that the plan which had been formed for bringing down General
 Consn. 9th March. Abercromby on the south bank of the Caveri, with his heavy artillery and stores &c., rested on the hopes His Lordship entertained of experiencing the most cordial co-operation from Purseram Bhow, as it would scarcely have been practicable for a corps consisting only of ten or twelve battalions of infantry to march for several days with all the incumbrances of ordnance, stores, and baggage through an open country, where they would certainly be exposed to the fire of rockets amongst their ammunition, and be harassed by a numerous and active cavalry.

14. In consequence, therefore, of the Bhow's proceeding to attack Bednore³ instead of assisting in the operations against Seringapatam, His Lordship directed General Abercromby to leave his heavy artillery at the head of the Poodicherrum Pass⁴, and advance to Periapatam, from whence he might be ready to proceed in an active state to the south side of the river, or to cross it, according to the probability of His Lordship's being enabled to send a body of cavalry to join him.

15. Ill-health prevented Hurry Punt from offering his services, and notwithstanding the zeal of the Nizam's Minister Azeem ul Omrah, his limited knowledge and experience in military matters, and the undisciplined state of his master's cavalry, did not admit of his affording the assistance that might otherwise have been expected from that quarter.

16. Notwithstanding these obstacles, General Abercromby's junction was held to be so necessary to the investment of the capital that upon receiving the necessary instructions from His Lordship he marched from his encampment near Periapatam on the 10th of February, and, without meeting with any molestation, took post the ensuing day at Tippoor Ford.

17. Upon intelligence of the Bombay Army's having arrived at the ford, Lord Cornwallis sent a detachment to meet them under the command of
 Consn. 14th March. Colonel Floyd who joined them on the 14th just as the enemy were approaching to harass their rear, and, on the ensuing day, they encamped before Seringapatam.

18. No occurrence particularly worthy of notice, except the usual preparations for a siege, happened from this period until the 23rd of February⁵, when after a short negotiation preliminaries of peace between the confederate powers and Tippoo Sultaun were signed, and followed by a cessation of hostilities the ensuing day.

19. We have the pleasure of sending in the packet a translation of the preliminary articles.

20. According to one of these articles Tippoo's second and third sons were sent into our camp on the 26th of February. The former is described
 Consn. 16th March. to be about 10 years of age, and the latter, who is about 8 years old, is considered as the heir of the Sultanah⁶.

Your Honorable Court will readily conceive that Lord Cornwallis did not omit shewing every mark of kindness and regard to the young princes. This humane treatment effectually removed all the apprehensions which were visible on their arrival in our camp, and reconciled them very early to their new situation.

21. The negotiation for a definitive treaty was now seriously commenced ; but in the course of it, many difficulties arose
 Consn. 21st March. which determined Lord Cornwallis to require that the business should be brought to an immediate issue.

22. A letter from Lord Cornwallis, dated the 2nd of March, mentioned that in the course of the two preceding days, Tippoo had, in further observance of the preliminary articles, sent in a crore and ten
 Consn. 28th March. lacks of rupees, assuring him that in three or four days more, the first *kist*, amounting to one crore and sixty-five lacks, should be discharged.

23. This apparent proof on the part of Tippoo Sultaun of his intention to adhere faithfully to his engagements induced His Lordship to order General Abercromby's army to fall back a few miles on the 3rd as far as the Kennambaddy Ford. However the chicane and evasion which soon began to be manifested on the part of Tippoo left much room to suspect his sincerity in the professions he had made. It was not easy, as Lord Cornwallis observed in a letter to Sir Charles Oakely, dated the 11th of March, to suppose that Tippoo, after giving up his two sons as hostages, and paying even by our account above eleven hundred thousand pounds could have an idea of renewing hostilities ; but he was a man, His Lordship said, who must not be trusted too far, especially as, besides all the difficulties he had started about the country and the money, he had, notwithstanding His Lordship's daily remonstrances, and his own repeated promises to desist, employed great numbers of men in strengthening the wall opposite to our approaches. It seems that he began to work in the fort on the very night on which he sent in his sons as hostages to Lord Cornwallis^r.

24. The enclosed translations of Sir John Kennaway's letters dated the 9th and 13th of March to Tippoo's *vakeels* contain a general view of the requisitions which it appeared to be the right of the Allies to make, according to the treaty, in a fair division of his country ; and shew the nature of the demur that was artfully excited to resist or delay it.

25. In the end, however, the deliberate firmness and unshaken resolution of Lord Cornwallis triumphed over the equivocation and chicane of Tippoo Sultaun, who finding that none of his objections or difficulties could gain him any ground, but, on the contrary, that he hazarded a fatal renewal of the threatened hostility, at length on the 19th ultimo^s signed and sealed the definitive treaty, which was on the same day delivered into His Lordship's hands by one of the hostage princes.

26. We have not yet received a copy of the treaty, but we cannot help offering our sincere congratulations to your Honble Court on the restoration of peace, the conditions of which, under the auspices of Lord Cornwallis, will, we are satisfied, unite whatever may best promote the real honor, the solid interests, or the future security of the Company in India.

27. The letters that have been written to Lord Cornwallis by Sir Charles Malet and Sir John Kennaway, and by Lieut. Stewart, the Assistant at Paangul residing with the Nabob Nizam Ally Khan, since our last advices, are recorded in our proceedings of the annexed dates; and copies of the most material of those that have arrived subsequent to the date of the last consultations now transmitted will be sent numbers in the packet.

Consn. 3d February.

8th Do.

15th Do.

22d Do.

29th Do.

His Majesty's squadron.

28. In addition to the information contained in the 24th paragraph of our address by the *Kent*⁹ relative to an engagement that happened off Mangalore in the month of November between His Majesty's ship *Phoenix* commanded by Richard Strachan and a French frigate, we beg leave to refer your Honorable Court to the enclosed copy of a letter, dated the 19th of January last, which we received from Commodore Cornwallis¹⁰, giving an account of the circumstances that preceded and followed that action.

Consn. 24th February.

Mahajee Sindia, the Nabob Vizier, and the Upper Provinces.

29. In the 86th and subsequent eight paragraphs of our General Letter from this Department by the *Queen*¹¹, we communicated to you the intention of Mahajee Sindia to pay a visit to Poona, and the directions given to Major Palmer, the Resident at his Court, to attend him on the journey¹². Some doubts on the part of Major Palmer having occurred relative to these orders, he was at length positively instructed to join Sindia, and we suppose that he is now with that chief.

Consn. 24th February.

30. A great deal of discussion in respect to the probable views of Mahajee Sindia in making this journey will be found in the correspondence of Major Palmer, Lieutenant Stewart at Paungul, and the Resident at Poona, and much is said by Lieutenant Stewart and Sir Charles Warre Malet in relation to Major Palmer's proceeding with him. To enter upon the reasoning on both sides would be to little purpose. It appears in the consultations noted in the margin and in the papers that will be sent in the packet. The objects of Mahajee Sindia, be they what they may, cannot, we think, in the present circumstances, be at all important to the interests of the Company. The question in respect to Major Palmer's accompanying him was well weighed before the order for it was given, and we saw no grounds for apprehending any serious inconveniences from assenting to Sindia's request.

Consn. 24th February.

14th March

21st Do.

23rd Do.

Consn. 9th March

21st Do.

28th Do.

31. In the 26th paragraph of our letter by the *Kent* we referred to some papers concerning a claim set up by Sindia against certain persons residing within the jurisdiction of the city of Benares. The suit is still prosecuting by his *vakeels* in the Benares *adawlet*; and would probably have occasioned some unpleasant altercations between them and your Resident, but for the firmness and moderation of Mr. Duncan. Our proceedings of the dates

Consn. 13th January.

3rd Do.

29th February.

annexed and the papers sent in the packet will acquaint you with the particulars of the correspondence that has passed on this subject.

32. You will observe in a letter from the Resident at Lucknow, recorded on our proceedings of the 8th of February, the arrival of Subkut Ulla Khan at that place with letters from Timoor Shah¹³ and his Consn. 8th February. Vizier Fyze Ulla Khan, the admission of Prince Ashun Buk't into the Shah's presence at Chaorbaugh¹⁴, the reception he met with, and the promise of the Shah to accompany him with an army into Hindostan in the course of a year. We have been too much accustomed to reports of this monarch's intention in this respect to give credit to any loose rumour of the kind.

33. Another article of intelligence, transmitted to us from Lucknow, is that, upon the Seiks meditating an incursion into the Maliratta districts in the northern part of Hindostan (it is said indeed that two thousand had already crossed the Jumna), Gopaul Row, one of Sindia's principal officers, sent a reinforcement to Mulhaur Row, the Maliratta Aumil of Ghose Ghur &c., and marched himself from Muttra for the double purposes, it was presumed, of checking the incursions of these freebooters, and of supporting Appa Kundoo Row in the siege of Canone.

34. We are concerned to say that the Nabob Vizier is more in arrear than usual in the payment of his *kists* to the Company, which have been received to the end of January, but no further. Mr. Stuart has written to Hyder Beg Khan to quicken the discharge of the remainder, and we hope that this requisition will have a good effect.

35. We beg leave to refer to our proceedings of the annexed date as containing a copy of correspondence with the Collector of Rungpore upon some investigations that have been made into the complaints preferred in the name of the Rajah of Assam and Rooner Ram Barrooh, who resides at Gualparah¹⁵ against Mr. Rauch¹⁶. Consn. 16th March. In one of the charges, Mr. Rauch was accused of having carried off the Sonahpore Dooariah with his family, and effects amounting to 50 or 60,000 rupees, and of having kept him in confinement; but these complaints however would not appear to have had any foundation in truth.

36. Another complaint of the Rajah of Assam relates to the Deringh Rajah, who is said to have been assisted from Bengal with sepoys and *burkundosses*¹⁷ to enable him to recover the possession of his country. For the purpose of investigating into the real source of these alleged grievances, and, if real, of affording adequate redress to those who have suffered them, we have directed Mr. Lumsden, the Collector of Rungpore, to repair to Gualparah. We shall lay before you the result of his enquiries in a subsequent dispatch.

Fort William,
8th April, 1792.

We have the honor to be &c.

[Per Dutton.]

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 3 SEPTEMBER 1792

Withdrawal of allied troops from Mysore—Surrender of territories by Tipu: dispute between the Nizam and Tipu over Karnul—Organisation of the newly ceded districts of Malabar—A strictly defensive treaty of mutual guarantee proposed in amplification of the Triple Alliance of 1790—The Nizam's illness and fear of civil war in case of his death: the Company to remain neutral—The Peshwa invested with the office of Vakil-i-Mutlaq by Sindia on behalf of the Mughal Emperor: the Company's attitude towards possible claims based on it—Treaty with the Nawab of Carnatic, July 1792—Satisfaction demanded for the misconduct of Sindia's agents and the officers of the Raja of Berar—Oudh Ministers appointed after obtaining Cornwallis's consent.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. You will receive by the *Ganges* a duplicate of the letter written to you by this Government on the 8th of April by the *Dutton*, a continuation of the proceedings between the 28th of March and the 24th of August with an index, and the other papers mentioned in the list of the packet.

*Fort St. George and Bombay, the Nabob Nizam Ally Khan,
the Marattas, and Tippoo Sultaun.*

2. We have much pleasure in transmitting to you, pursuant to the advices contained in the 25th paragraph of the Board's letter by the *Dutton*¹, a translation of the Definitive Treaty concluded near Siringapatam by Lord Cornwallis and your allies with Tippoo Sultaun on the 18th of March 1792, and with it a copy of the Persian original. We received from the Governor General a copy of His Lordship's letter² to your Honorable Court dated the 5th of April, 1792, detailing at full length the reasons that operated in his selection of the different countries that are ceded to the Company; and we recorded it in our consultations of the 9th of May.

3. You were made acquainted by His Lordship's letter that the first payment from Tippoo Sultaun of one crore and sixty-five lacks of rupees having been completed, Purseram Bhow re-passed the Caveri to proceed directly towards his own country; and that, after evacuating the trenches and outposts upon the island, all the confederate forces began to move from Seringapatam on the 26th of March, the orders for the mutual cession of forts and districts, conformable to the treaty, having been previously interchanged; that General Abercromby commenced his march to the coast of Malabar, and was on the same day joined by Captain Little's detachment, which had only been engaged to serve with the Marattas during the war; and that Hurry Punt Furkia³

and the Nizam's son, and Minister, would separate from the army in a few days.

4. Lord Cornwallis having laid before us a narrative transmitted to him by Sir John Kennaway, who was employed on behalf of the Company to negociate the treaty under His Lordship's directions, of the several circumstances and correspondence that passed at the meetings of the deputies of the Allies and Tippoo Sultaun, we have the honor of transmitting a copy of it in the packet, with copies of the papers to which it refers.

5. Tippoo having signified his wish that his two sons, who were hostages for the faithful performance of the treaty on his part, should reside at Madras, His Lordship readily assented to it, and the Governor General in Council was requested to have a proper house prepared for their accommodation.

6. General Abercromby arrived upon the Malabar Coast on or about the 12 of April; and Hurry Punt, and Secunder Jah with the Nizam's Minister, separated from the army on the 10th of April. The former arrived at Poona on the 25th of May, and the latter at Hydrabad on the 4th of May.

7. The Grand Army under Earl Cornwallis proceeded by easy marches into the Carnatic; and, after providing garrisons for the different places ceded to the Company by Tippoo Sultaun, Lord Cornwallis reached Madras on the 29th of May and the hostages on the 30th, the several corps having previously moved to the stations to which they had been respectively appointed by general orders.

8. In the 3d article of the Definitive Treaty reference is made to a schedule of the countries (composing altogether one half of the dominions which were in the possession of Tippoo at the commencement of the war) as these were to be ceded to the Allies according to their respective shares. The districts to be given up to the Company were relinquished without hesitation or delay; and there were no complaints as to those that were agreed to [be] ceded to the Peshwa. But this was not precisely the case in respect to the countries which were the share of the Nabob Nizeem Ally Khan.

9. Jessarut ul Dowla, an officer in the Nizam's service, having been sent to take possession of Balkaree, which was among the cessions to be made to the Nizam, the place was not immediately given up, and the officer left it. He proceeded a second time to demand the delivery of it from Tippoo's officers; and, in the interim, a complaint was made by the latter that the orders granted by His Highness for the delivery of country to be released by the Nizam had not been attended to. Thus, a doubt about the cession of Balkaree existed for some time; but we have had the satisfaction to learn from Sir John Kennaway, in a letter dated the 8th of last month, that accounts had been received by the Minister, of Jessarut ul Dowla's having, in consequence of a message from the *kelladar*, sent people to receive charge of the place. Tippoo, in a letter to Sir John Kennaway, denied that, on his part or that of his officers, there had been any refusal to give it up. He said that the *kelladar*, according to stipulation, had demanded eight days to clear the fort, and was employed in doing so when the Nizam's c *killadar* himself, suddenly disappeared, upon hear the surprize of

Tippoo were repeated, in strong terms, to relinquish the fort and the districts appertaining to whomever should come from the Nizam without any prevarication or delay.

10. A subject of some consequence was brought before us relative to the adjustment of a claim of Tippoo on Runmust Khan, the Nabob of Kurnoul, for a *peshcush* of two lacks of rupees per annum, which the Consn. 27 June. Nizam's minister had neglected to bring to a decided issue in the conferences at Seringapatam. The district of Kurnoul is a military fief that has been held from the *Soubadar* of the Decan since that office has been in the Nizam's family; but as the military service rendered, on one part, has, for many years, been little more than nominal, so has the protection and assistance afforded by the other, of which there are instances in proof as well in the time of Tippoo as in that which preceded it during the government of his father. But, although there appeared to be little doubt that in Hyder's life time Runmust Khan, under alarm for the safety of his capital to which Hyder's army had advanced, agreed to pay him a *peshcush* of two lacks, there was very good reason to suppose that no written engagement was taken for it; and upon this ground the right of Tippoo to the *peshcush* was denied by the Nizam, who, in order to establish a barrier in the way of any encroachments that Tippoo might design on Kurnoul, had thoughts of proposing to Runmust Khan that he should relinquish to His Highness, for an equivalent, such *purgunnahs* of his country as bordered on that of Tippoo Sultaun, whose districts of Gooty surrounded it to the south; and the matter was referred to Lord Cornwallis. It was understood that the Peshwa had claims on the Kurnoul country in common with the Nizam.

11. We could not perceive that the Nizam was called upon to give himself any concern about Runmust Khan, and much less did we think that the Allies would be justifiable in taking part in his favour. Runmust Consn. 6 August. Khan, by his own account, appears to have paid a tribute or *peshcush* thirty years previous to the last war to Hyder and Tippoo and no objection seems to have been made, in all that time, by the Nizam to his submitting to the demands of the Mysore Government on the ground of his being his *jaghiredar*. If His Highness was under the necessity, during all that time, of waving a just claim from the superiority of the Mysore force, he should have stated the violation of his rights at the meeting of the deputies for negotiating the late peace when the Allies would have entered into a full discussion of the matter.

12. The antient, but obsolete, claims of the *Soubah* of the Decan extend nearly over the whole southern part of the peninsula, and include the possessions of Mahomed Alli and Tippoo as well as those of the Nabob of Kurnoul; but the revival and support of such dormant claims is suited only to a Government which has determined to pursue a line of ambition and conquest, and is ill adopted to the system of moderation and peace that we profess.

13. Lord Cornwallis, therefore, after having very maturely considered the merits of the question that had been referred to His Lordship's consideration, declared that he entertained great doubts of the policy, and even of the justice, of the Nizam's interference in favor of Runmust Khan; and he earnestly recommended that His Highness should be very cautious how he engaged in

a business that would probably occasion much trouble and difficulty, and from which he was not likely to derive any positive advantage.

14. We transmit to you numbers in the packet copies of the dispatches that have been received by the Governor General, bearing date the 12th and 16th of June, 17th, 18th and 21st July, from Mr. Gamal
 Consn. 6th } August. Farmer and Major Dow, who were appointed by General
 24th } Abercromby to act as Commissioners for inspecting the countries on the Malabar Coast subordinate to the Presidency of Bombay, which had been ceded by Tippoo Sultaun to the Company, enclosing a detail of their proceedings and of the progress they have made in executing their commission. They contain a great deal of interesting matter, but not requiring immediate orders or opinion from this Government, which are also the less necessary at present as General Abercromby is himself to proceed down the Malabar Coast in the ensuing month to direct what may be necessary, subject to our ultimate approbation, in regard to those countries. According to the intimation conveyed in Lord Cornwallis's letter to your Honorable Court of the 5th of April, two of your servants on this establishment in whom particular confidence may be reposed will be deputed, as soon as the change of the monsoon shall render it practicable, to join the Commissioners from Bombay.

15. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that Tippoo Sultaun has liquidated at Kistnagherry the first instalment due from him of the second moiety payable by him to the Company according to the 2nd article of the Definitive Treaty.

16. There being now a necessity to bring to clear and explicit terms the vague and general engagement of mutual guarantee which was entered into by the confederates at the commencement of the war, the subject was brought before us, and instructions were sent by Lord Cornwallis to the Resident at Poona in the following terms on the 20th of last month.

"Although there seems, at present, to be no reason to apprehend that Tippoo will, for a considerable period, be disposed to come to a rupture with any of the members of the late confederacy, yet as it is of great importance for preserving our reputation for good faith, as well as for the general interests of the British nation, that the grounds should be clearly explained on which the Allies can, in consequence of the 13 and 10 articles of the treaties of alliance* that were formed at the commencement of the war, demand assistance and support from each other against any hostile attempt of their late common enemy. I look upon it as proper and desirable that the Treaty of Guarantee, which they were bound to enter into, should, with all convenient dispatch, be put into a distinct form; and I therefore wish that you should take an early opportunity to confer fully with the Minister upon this subject.

"Every consideration will induce me to examine and discuss any propositions that may be made by him in the most amicable manner; but the greatest care must be taken that no vague or ambiguous expression shall be admitted into this new instrument, and that the stipulations shall in no shape go beyond the spirit of the article upon which they will be founded.

*"Referred to the treaties concluded at Poona and Pangal on the 1 of June and 4 of July 1790"—These words are given in the margin of the text in clarification of the articles referred to. (Ed.)

"I shall defer entering much into detail until you can inform me of Nana's sentiments and expectations; but it is proper that you should be acquainted with my ideas of the general principles which should form the basis of the agreement.

"The Allies are bound to guarantee against Tippoo the territories that each of them might possess at the conclusion of the war; but it must always be adverted to that the stipulation is merely defensive, and cannot operate unless Tippoo should attack either of them without just provocation.

"It must therefore be clearly expressed in the Treaty of Guarantee that in case any difference should arise between one of the latter and Tippoo, the other Allies are to have a right to expect that the nature and circumstances of such difference shall be fully communicated to them, in order that they may give their opinion and advice and endeavour to settle it by a temperate negotiation, and that they shall not be considered as bound to take up arms in his favor until they are convinced that he has justice on his side, and all means of conciliation shall have proved fruitless.

"Should a rupture become unavoidable, the interest and safety of the contracting powers will be so evidently and deeply involved in the event that it would be highly injudicious in them to limit their exertions in endeavouring to bring it to a speedy and honorable conclusion, and it must consequently be stipulated that the whole force of each state is to be employed for that purpose.

"The distress and danger of the party that may be attacked being entitled to the greatest attention from the other members of the alliance, it ought to be understood, and settled, that, whilst no time should be lost in preparing their whole force to take the field, every immediate assistance that may be practicable should be afforded with such troops as may be in actual readiness for service.

"The above are the fair principles for the Treaty of Guarantee; and, to render any further treaty unnecessary, in the event that Tippoo's conduct should again force us into hostilities, during the existence of the guarantee, it may be proper to insert in it that a general plan of operations for the confederate forces is to be concerted as soon as possible after a rupture becomes certain; and that, conformable to the terms of the alliance that was made at the commencement of last war, none of the parties shall enter separate negotiations; but that (under the exclusion of unreasonable objections) all measures for concluding a peace shall be conducted with the knowledge and approbation of the whole.

"You will communicate to Sir J. Kennaway the particulars and result of your conferences upon this point, that you may act in entire conformity with each other."

17. A copy of these instructions was transmitted to your Resident at the Court of the Nizam, and he was desired to consider them as applying equally for his guidance in conferring with the Nizam and his Minister on the subject of the Treaty of Guarantee which is to be formed by the three confederate powers. He was also directed to communicate to Sir Charles Malet the particulars of the result of his conferences in this point.

18. We have had pleasure in being informed by Sir Charles Malet that

an order has at last been given for the release of Budder ul Zeeman Khan, who had been detained by the Marattas a prisoner in their country after the capitulation of the fort of Durwar, which he had defended for so long a period against every effort that was made to reduce it at the beginning of the late war. Tippoo had very justly complained of this breach of faith in the Maratta Government, and Lord Cornwallis had earnestly required that Budder ul Zeeman Khan should be immediately permitted to return to his master⁵.

19. Our dispatches from Sir John Kennaway of the dates annexed contain a relation of circumstances connected with the illness of the Nizam which was so serious that he was thought in considerable danger.

Consn. 27th April.	We believe that the alarm has subsided by favorable
9 May.	appearances in the Nizam's disorder, which was a dropsy.
16 Do.	It was surmised that, in the event of his death, there would
27 June.	be a competition for the <i>musnud</i> against the pretensions
13 July.	of His Highness's eldest son ; and it was imagined that the Maratta State would

take an active part on the occasion. A reference was made upon the subject to Lord Cornwallis, who was clearly of opinion, in which we perfectly coincided, that the Company's Government should not interfere, and that the Madras detachment, at present in the Nizam's pay, should take no part in any contest that might arise for the succession in the event of His Highness's decease.

20. You will observe that Sir John Kennaway's letters of the 23d of May and 4th of June relate to His Highness's desire not to part with the two battalions of your troops under Captain Read, detached for his service in the year 1790. The same letters have reference also to the expence that should be charged to His Highness on their account while they continue with him.

21. The Governor General having laid before us copies of all such letters written by His Lordship to your Residents with the Peshwa and Nizam Ali Khan since he left Bengal in the year 1790 as have not been already recorded on our proceedings, we shall have the honor of transmitting copies of them numbers in the packet.

22. The letters to the Governor General from Sir Charles Malet of the 25th of May and 3d of June relative to some points stated by Behroo Punt to have been urged to Lord Cornwallis by Hurry Punt Turkia before the separation of the armies, and the answers which His Lordship gave upon the different subjects. It may be proper to take notice that they were declared at Poona to have been agitated by Hurry Punt, without any instructions from his Court. We shall subjoin an extract of Sir Charles's letter concerning them.

Article I. That the Peshwa Government had great demands of *chout* on the Nizam, particularly in the quarter of Adoni, in the recovery of which rigour had yet been avoided ; but, as it was probable there would be a necessity for rigorously enforcing the demand, he (Hurry Punt) hoped Lord Cornwallis would have no objection thereto, and would instruct Sir John Kennaway accordingly, to which His Lordship replied that he would instruct Sir John Kennaway, if consulted, to advise the Nizam to discharge what was due.

[Article] 2. That after some previous conversation about Sindia, Hurry Punt had generally proposed to Lord Cornwallis, whether, in the event of a dependant proving refractory to his master His Lordship would interpose in his behalf. His Lordship observed that this must be in allusion to Sindia, and replied that he should not interfere in the disputes of a superior and dependant. Hurry Punt rejoined that if the Peshwa should have occasion for four or five battalions of the Company's troops, would they be granted on his application, which His Lordship understanding as still alluding to Sindia replied that he was in friendship with the Company, and that such an interference, in favor of either master or dependant, was inadmissible.

[Article] 3. That the mosque at Banares was built on holy Hindoo ground, and His Lordship was requested to grant permission for its demolition, and the erection of a pagoda on its site; to which His Lordship had replied that he would write to the Resident at Banares on the subject; and give an answer to the proposal on the receipt of his reply.

[Article] 4. That the Rajah of Tanjore should be treated with every indulgence consistent with his treaties with the Company; to which His Lordship had replied, that there were two treaties with the Rajah, which formed the line of observance toward him; but, as Buchajee Punt was to accompany him to Madras, everything that was proper would be noticed to him.

[Article] 5. That a long interval had elapsed since any *chout* had been paid by Mahomed Alli Khan to the Peshwa, which His Lordship was requested to cause to be liquidated; to which His Lordship had replied that such an application, in the present necessitous state of the Nabob's affairs, was improper."

23. The circumstances that passed in the conferences between Lord Cornwallis and Hurry Punt Turkia are mentioned in His Lordship's letters to Sir Charles Malet dated the 2d of April and 12th of May, 1792; and to these we beg leave to refer as making part of the correspondence forwarded in this dispatch.

24. The greater part of the letters received from the Resident at Poona, since we addressed you by the *Dutton*, have reference either to the situation of Behroo Punt, the agent employed by the Minister at Poona and in his immediate confidence to transact the business of the Court with your Resident, and the opposition set up against his influence by Hurry Punt Turkia, or the expectation of Sindia at Poona, his arrival there, and the circumstances that followed it.

25. Both subjects are discussed in the correspondence of Sir Charles Malet, which is recorded on our proceedings of the annexed dates. And we beg leave to refer you to those consultations as containing a particular and circumstantial detail of them. As to Behroo Punt, it appears that the good management of the Minister, Nana Furnaveese, has kept him in his office; and we were pleased to hear that this had happened as he has discharged his duty with fidelity to his master, and shewn himself solicitous to preserve, against all opposition, the friendship between the Company's and the Peshwa's

Consn. 4, 11, 13, 18
April.
2, 9, 16, 25, 29
May.
8, 15, 27 June.
4, 13, 18, 20, 30
July.
3 August.

Governments. Copies of the two last letters received by Lord Cornwallis from Sir Charles Malet attend you numbers in the packet.

26. In regard to Sindia's visit to Poona, the actual objects of it, since he was disappointed by the conclusion of peace with Tippoo of exercising any interference relative to the war, are merely conjectural, and until they are better established do not deserve notice. A great deal has been written upon expediency of his being attended to Poona by Major Palmer; but the matter was settled without bringing it to the issue of a formal question, and Major Palmer remains at Ugene, continuing his correspondence with Sindia upon all matters and transactions that concern the Company and that chief. On his arrival at Poonah he was received with great distinction by the Peshwa; and he took an early opportunity of presenting to him, with peculiar form and ceremony, a *phirmaun*, *khelaut*, and honorary insignia from Shah Allum for the office of *Vakcel ul Mutluck*^a. The translations of His Majesty's *shokas*

upon this occasion to the Peshwa and Sindia are recorded Consn. 18 July. on our consultations of the 18 July, and we beg leave to refer to them. We believe them to be of no real consequence, either present or eventual, to the interests of the Company; and they have not been laid before us by either of the powers concerned in them; but, as there was little doubt of their existence, it was proper that they should not be wholly overlooked. The notice which has been taken of them will appear in the following extract of a letter written by Lord Cornwallis to Major Palmer on the 9th ultimo.

"Another point still remains on which I wish my sentiments to be communicated in the most explicit terms to Sindia. I allude here to a paper which was transmitted hither by the newswriter at Delhi containing copies of letters said to have been written by the King to the Peshwa and to Sindia, and in which he says that he hopes that by their exertions some tribute may now be obtained from Bengal.

"As this paper has not come to me in an authenticated form, there would perhaps be some impropriety in making use of it as a ground for a formal representation. But if letters to the above purport should be communicated to you, or if you should find a proper opening for introducing the subject, my directions are that you should declare that, in the present situation of the King, I consider all letters written on political points in his name as written by Sindia's sanction and authority only, and that you are instructed by me to add that an attempt to establish principles of the above description by any power whatever will be warmly resented by this Government.

"You will, in the course of any conversation or correspondence which you may hold with Sindia upon this point, take care to recal in the most forcible manner to his recollection the spirit of moderation and forbearance that has been manifested by this Government during the long period in which he has been employed in extending his conquests in the northern parts of Hindostan; and that it would give us pain to be forced to depart from the neutral and pacific system that we have hitherto observed in that quarter. You will, at the same time, inform him that it is by my particular directions that you say that we have no desire to make any new acquisitions, nor even to interfere in the internal affairs of the empire if we can avoid it with honor and safety; but that if any of our neighbours should be rash enough to insult us by unjust

demands, or in any other shape whatever, we feel ourselves both able and resolved to exact ample satisfaction.

"Although I am persuaded that you will make use of the most guarded and temperate language in conveying the substance of the above instructions to Sindia, it must unavoidably appear to him that I am not entirely satisfied with his late conduct; and whilst I do not desire to conceal my dissatisfaction from him, I wish that you should express, in strong terms, what has arisen to occasion it, and my earnest hopes that he will prove the sincerity of his professions of attachment and regard for the interests of the Company by removing all our present grounds for complaint, and by that means restore our correspondence to its former style of friendship and cordiality."

There is a paragraph in a late letter from Major Palmer which we shall quote as it stands—

"The Bhow asserts that no application will be made of the authority with which the Peshwa has been now publicly invested, and Sindia under him, by Shaw Allum, against any state which may be supposed subject to the claims of the Mogul Empire, and that the office of *Vakeel ul Mutluk* is assumed only for the purpose of giving sanction to the possessions already held, and the powers already exercised, in the name of the Mogul Government; and it appears to me probable that Sindia, who will have the actual and entire administration of the office, will use it with caution not to expose his authority to contempt, and that the dominion of the House of Timour will be asserted only when he has power to enforce it."

27. We have the honor to acquaint you that, on the 30 of July, at the first meeting of the Council after Lord Cornwallis's return to Bengal, which happened on the 26th, His Lordship laid before us an agreement which he had concluded with the Nabob of Arcot, and copies of all the correspondence and papers relative to it, and clearly explaining the origin and different steps of the negotiation, as well as the motives and principles by which he was governed in proceeding upon it.

28. As these have been laid before your Honorable Court in a letter from the Governor General dated the 9th of July, we shall only notice, after referring to our consultations which contain them, that the members of the Council have recorded their entire approbation of the treaty in the terms expressed in a minute transmitted with the papers of this dispatch.

29. The treaty was signed by Lord Cornwallis, in the presence of the Board on the 30th of July, and it was immediately transmitted to Madras to be presented to His Highness the Nabob.

30. We observe that the Governor General, in a letter dated the 17th of July, has acquainted you with his acquiescence in the Nabob's earnest solicitation that His Lordship should take upon himself the examination and final adjustment of all the open accounts between His Highness and the Company, on the conditions that His Highness should relinquish all other means that he might have been persuaded to adopt for obtaining such a settlement, and that he should agree to abide by His Lordship's decision.

31. You were, at the same time, informed that His Lordship had requested the Government of Fort St. George to appoint, without loss of time,

two of the most capable of the Company's servants to meet two persons that would be nominated by the Nabob for the purpose of arranging the account, and framing a distinct [?] report of the grounds and arguments adduced by the parties in support of the different articles, to be accompanied with the remarks and opinions of the Board, such being, in His Lordship's opinion, the most impartial and effectual means of preparing the whole case for the examination of the Supreme Government. The gentlemen appointed upon this duty are Mr. Moubray and Mr. Woolf, the late and present Accountants General at Madras.

32. We have the pleasure to enclose in the packet translations of letters lately received by Lord Cornwallis from the Nabob of Arcot, with a copy of His Lordship's answers to them, including, among the former, His Highness's instructions to Mr. James Macpherson to withdraw the Chancery suit which had been instituted against the Company by His Highness's orders.

33. On the 14th ultimo we received a letter from the Government at Madras enclosing a copy of a letter addressed to them by the Board of

Consn. 20 August.

Assumed Revenue relative to the terms in which His Highness's *perwannahs* written to the different polygars concerning the *peshcush* which they were to pay to the Company were expressed. The objection made to the *perwannahs* was that the payments to be received by the Company were stated to be a *part* of rent or *peshcush*, and it was wished that the expression should be corrected by declaring that the sums assigned over to the Company were in *full* of the *peshcush* to be received from the polygars for the *Fusily* year 1202, as the Board at Madras considered the words "in part" to be inconsistent with the intention of the late treaty. They transmitted to us a copy of the correspondence which they had upon the subjects with the Nabob; and we could not help thinking, for the reasons stated in our answer (of which we enclose a copy), that the form of the *perwannahs*, as made out by His Highness, was proper. We, therefore, recommended that they might be issued accordingly, and that this part of the treaty might be carried into effect without delay. But we have very lately received a letter from Madras informing us that His Highness had, at length, consented to an alteration in the *perwannahs* nearly similar to that to which had been desired.

34. We were much surprised to receive a letter from Major Palmer enclosing a complaint which had been sent by General Abercromby to Sir

Charles Malet from the Resident at Broach, of acts done

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by Sindia's *Aumil* at that place, so violent in themselves, insulting to your Resident, and inconsistent with the relation between the Company and Sindia, that it required instant notice. We refer to the circumstances as they are stated in the Resident's letter which is

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recorded on our consultations of the 30th of July. Major Palmer made immediate application to Sindia for redress, lest the delay that would arise in waiting for particular instructions from hence should encourage him to suppose that the representation would be received in a less serious light than it deserved.

35. The behaviour of Sindia's *Aumils* or Managers to our factory at Broach had long been so incompatible with the terms of our friendship and with his professions of friendship for the Company, that the

for some time past, determined to require, as soon as the war with Tippoo should be concluded, that he would take effectual measures to prevent a repetition of the injuries, of which the Resident at Broach had so frequently complained; but the late outrage at that place was of a nature that called for immediate and signal reparation, and the conduct of Major Palmer in having instantly made the demand, without waiting for our instructions, was therefore highly proper.

36. It were to no good purpose to enter into explanations of the reasons that induced us to suspect that Sindia, during our embarrassments in the war with Tippoo, had indulged himself in views of ambition unfriendly to your interests, but in the present situation of political affairs, we were willing to hope that he would, without hesitation, make the reparation that Major Palmer had demanded for the insulting behaviour of his *Aumil* towards your Resident, and for the atrocious murder which was committed (as you will observe in the complaint of the Resident at Broach) of one of the sepoys; and, whilst it was the instruction of Lord Cornwallis to Major Palmer to inform Sindia that nothing short of the disgrace of Lallaboy, the *Aumil*, and the most exemplary punishment, in the view of the factory at Broach, of the Patans who committed that murder, would be considered by us as sufficient satisfaction for the late outrages, he was also to declare to Sindia, in the most explicit terms, that our patience was wearied with the numerous complaints of the Company's servants at Broach, and that we should no longer tamely submit to any infringement of the privileges which we reserved to ourselves when we agreed to cede that district and town to him. Lord Cornwallis's sentiments in general upon this sort of conduct in the Marattas were also communicated to Sir Charles Malet, that the Court of Poona might be very fully possessed of our determination upon it. His Lordship's words are these:

"I am well aware of the spirit of ambition and avarice which predominates in the Maratta character; but I trust that our regard to justice supported by our power will always awe that state from attempting to make any infringements upon the honor or interests of the British nation.

"Should any act or expression of the above tendency come to your knowledge, it will be your duty to oppose it at the *Durbar* where you reside, with firm and explicit language, giving every person to whom it is addressed clearly to understand that, guided as the British Government is by principles of moderation in abstaining from all acts of injustice, or even interference with the affairs of its neighbours, it will ever be found determined and ready to resent any claims or attempts to encroach upon its rights or to disturb its possessions in this country."

37. Mahajee Sindia has replied to Major Palmer's first letter in terms of positive disapproval of the conduct of his *Aumil*, and promising a degree of reparation but not to the extent that he would afterwards find was required of him.

38. But unjustifiable as the conduct of Sindia's servants had been at Broach, the behaviour of his *vakeels*, as explained in our last letter by the *Dutton*, and still further recited in our subsequent advices from Bañares to the Resident and Court of *Adawlet* at that place, had been still more insulting to this Government. Major Palmer was therefore instructed, after calling the attention of Sindia and Bhow Backshy⁹

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to the pains we had taken to render the resort of strangers of all nations to Banares both convenient and safe, and to the marks of favored distinction that we have ever with pleasure shewn to the Marattas in particular, to acquaint them that it was with surprise and concern that Lord Cornwallis received representations from the Supreme Board, whilst he was in the field, as well as since his return to Bengal, that Sindia's *vakeels*, and others who call themselves his dependents, had on several occasions during his absence behaved with a degree of indecency and insolence towards the Resident and Court of Adawlet at Banares in prosecution of some claims upon several individuals of that place which no well-regulated Government could suffer.

39. A number of other Marattas having also within the last 1700 years been guilty of many improprieties at Banares, Lord Cornwallis did not require that Sindia's servants, in particular, should be punished for their past misbehaviour; but His Lordship desired that Major Palmer would, in moderate and plain language, give Sindia and Bhaw Buckszy clearly to understand that although all Marattas who may have occasion to visit the Company's territories, either on business or for religious purposes, will, whilst they conduct themselves quietly, meet with the most friendly treatment, yet, that on the other hand, His Lordship was determined that all acts of violence to our established laws and insults to the officers of our Government, should, without respect to persons, be in future severely punished.

40. The Resident at Benares has been directed to signify the above resolution to all the Marathas who may be now at that place; and we trust that Sindia will, on his part, give such instructions to his various and dependent as will effectually restrain them, in future, from giving any ground of complaint.

41. The conduct of a number of people belonging to the Bazar Movement upon the occasion of an intelligence given to the Rajah's officers and his attendants to prevent their going to the place having proved very disorderly, as well as their journey from places in that place as on their return to the Rajah on the subject; and to hope that such a case of disorder will not again occur.

[illegible]

Upper Provinces.

43. We are concerned to inform you of the death of Hyder Beg Khawn¹⁰, which happened at Lucknow on the 5th of June. On the application of your Resident Mr. Ives¹¹, the Nabob, though he had formed an arrangement for the succession, and afterwards acted upon it as a temporary measure, was prevailed upon to wait the return of Lord Cornwallis before he confirmed it. His Lordship, thinking the arrangement to be as good a one as could be made,

Consn. 6th August. considering the few men of credit or capacity equal to such a situation in the Vizear's dominions, delivered his opinion in its favor, and Hossein Reza Cawn¹² becomes the officiant [sic] Minister in the room of Hyder Beg Khan, and Rajah Tickait Roy is placed at the head of the finances. A copy of Lord Cornwallis's letter to Mr. Ives, on this occasion, will be sent a number in the packet.

Fort William,
the 3d September, 1792.

We have the honor to be.

(*Per Ganges.*)

16

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 14 OCTOBER 1792

Capt. Kirkpatrick's mission to Nepal to mediate in the Sino-Nepalese war
—*Capt. Welsh's expedition to help the Raja of Assam in putting down internal disorders.*

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Since the date of our letter by the *Ganges*, we have received your dispatches of the 25th of April last by the *King George*, and we shall do ourselves the honor of replying to them by the next opportunity that offers.

2. In the 36th paragraph of the advices from this Government by the *Dutton*¹, you were informed of a dispute between the Rajah of Assam and the Rajah of Deringh, and that the latter was said to have been assisted from Bengal with sepoys and *berkundasses* to enable him to recover the possession of his country. We shall transmit to you in the packet copies of the papers that have been since brought before us on this subject, and among the rest a letter from the Rajah of Assam soliciting the Company's support and assistance.

3. We shall also forward to your Honorable Court by this dispatch a copy of correspondence that has passed with the Rajah of Nepal, who has likewise applied for troops to defend him against the Rajah of Lassa.

4. After considering the requests of the Rajahs of Nepaul and Assam very maturely, and the commercial advantages that Bengal obtains by a friendly and open intercourse with both countries, we thought that it would be no less political than humane to interpose our good offices and endeavour to re-establish peace and tranquillity in those quarters.

5. We had not before us the whole of the papers that concerned the dispute between Napaul and Lassa, as some letters that had come from the Lamas of Thibet and the commander of the Chinese army, which had been sent to their assistance against the Rajah of Napaul, were written in the Mantchoux language* (which is said to be the Tartar language of the Emperor's Court) and we have not yet been able to obtain translations of them; but we think it not improbable that the Persian paper which was enclosed in a letter to the Governor General from one of the Lamas is either a translation or contains the substance of all the letters.* It is to the following effect, that the Emperor of China has sent an army to attack and destroy the Rajah of Napaul in revenge for the injuries that he had done to the people of Thibet who are dependent upon China, and that it is hoped that we shall not give the Rajah any assistance.

6. It appeared to us that the commercial treaty which we have lately concluded with Napaul, and the friendly advances made to us by the Rajah, should induce this Government to endeavour, as far as it could be done by safe and justifiable means, to preserve him and his country from destruction, and that it was also not only incumbent on us to avoid giving offence to the Chinese but to neglect no opportunity that afforded a prospect of opening a communication with an officer of rank in that state; and the union of these objects rendered it necessary that we should be extremely delicate and circumspect in our conduct.

7. Lord Cornwallis therefore has proposed, and the Board have agreed, that we should send a friendly deputation to the Napaul Rajah with instruction to assure him of its being our earnest wish to extricate him from a ruinous war, but at the same time to state to him that, as the amicable correspondence which we have held with the Lamas and the commercial connection which has long subsisted between our country and that of the Emperor of China do absolutely preclude us from committing hostilities against either of those powers without any provocation on their part, it is only by means of conciliatory negociation that we can endeavour to assist him, and that in order to effect this desirable purpose, it will be necessary that he should open an immediate intercourse with the commanders of the Chinese, and Thibet forces.

8. The desperate situation to which the Rajah's affairs are reduced, according to accounts received from Mr. Duncan, the Resident at Benares, will probably induce him to acquiesce in any proposition that may hold out to him a chance of relief; and we have good reason to suppose that notwithstanding any successes the Chinese may have had against the people of Napaul the difficulty of transporting supplies to an army at such an immense distance, and through a country so rugged and mountainous as Thibet, must be found so great that they will be no less inclined than the Rajah to accept our mediation.

* "a translation of it makes.No. 21 of this packet"—These words are in the margin of the text. (Ed.)

9. There is not the same necessity for caution in our interference at Assam as the disturbances there are merely of an internal nature; and being principally occasioned by gangs of vagabonds belonging to Bengal, we are particularly called upon to make some exertions to quell them.

10. It appeared to us that an active and prudent officer with six companies of sepoy would be able to effect our purpose in relieving the Rajah of Assam; and that as our knowledge of the present state of affairs in that country is rather imperfect, it might be advisable to direct the officer and the detachment to proceed immediately to Gualparah, withholding any detailed instructions for his conduct until he should transmit to us every information that he could collect when near the scene that relates to the objects of his future operations.

11. However extraordinary it may appear, we are still under the necessity of admitting that, owing to the constant jealousy which the chiefs of those countries have hitherto shewn of the English, we know little more of the interior parts of Napaul and Assam than of the interior parts of China; and we have therefore thought that no pains or attention should be spared to avail ourselves of so favourable an opportunity to obtain good surveys and to acquire every information that may be possible, both of the population and of the manners and customs of the inhabitants as well as of the trade and manufactures and natural productions of countries with which it must ever be our interest to maintain the most friendly communication.

12. The officer deputed to Napaul is Captain William Kirkpatrick³, who will receive a salary of 1,500 rupees a month during the time of his being employed on the commission, and charge his actual expences upon honor. Lieutenant Samuel Scott is appointed his Assistant, and will receive the pay and *batta* of his regiment and an allowance of 200 rupees a month. Lieutenant Wilford now on duty at Banares goes as Surveyor, and Mr. Freer, one of your Assistant Surgeons, is sent with the deputation, being well qualified to examine the natural productions of the country. He will receive the pay and *batta* of the station from which he is sent, and a salary of a hundred rupees a month.

13. The officer deputed to Assam is Captain Thos. Welsh who will have double *batta* and 500 rupees a month while employed upon the service. Lieutenant Macgregor goes as Adjutant to the detachment, and will be employed as Assistant to Captain Welsh with a reasonable allowance as soon as he shall be wanted for that duty. Ensign Thomas Wood proceeds with Captain Welsh as Surveyor, and Dr. Peter Wade as Surgeon with the same allowance as that is given to Mr. Freer.

14. We transmit to your Honorable Court in the packet a copy of a letter from the Persian Translator, and with it a copy of Lord Cornwallis's correspondence with the native powers during His Lordship's absence from the Presidency and concerning the late war.

We have the honor to be &c.

(Signed) Cornwallis / Peter Speke / Wm. Cowper.

Fort William,
14th October, 1792.

(Per Europa.)



William Kirkpatrick

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 14 DECEMBER 1792

Oudh's offer of help during the Third Mysore War—Writing of the history of the Marathas by Malet and of the Nizam by Kennaway—Policy towards the Carnatic pategars—Tanjore affairs: Raja of Tanjore's misconduct; Serfojee, the heir apparent, and the widows of the late Raja seek refuge in Madras; Madras Government's proposal to postpone the transfer of the administration of the country to the Raja—Raja of Travancore's claim to certain taluks ceded by Tipu—Danish claims on Calicut—Malwan piracies—The question of the Nawab of Surat's investiture by the Mughal Emperor—Sindia's regrets for the conduct of his agent at Broach—Progress of the negotiations about the Treaty of Guarantee—Sindia-Peshwa conflicts and Azim-ul-Umara's proposed visit to Poona—Payment of peshkash to the Nizam—Payment of the war indemnity by Tipu—Maratha claims to chauth inadmissible—Malet's baronetcy—Sindia-Holkar conflicts in Northern India—Restoration of peace between Nepal and China—The Fauzdar of Balasore removed by the Nagpur Raja on certain complaints made by the Company—Troubles in Ganjam and further causes of complaint against the Nagpur Raja's officials.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have the honor to lay before you a duplicate of our letters, dated the 14th of October 1792, and sent per *Europa*, in which we acknowledged the receipt of your dispatches of the 25th of April by the *King George*, and promised to reply to them by the next opportunity.

Answer to the Company's General Letter in the Political Department, dated the 25th of April, 1792.

Paragraph (1) Date of last advices.

(2) Paragraphs not requiring any answer.

(3) Reference to a letter to the Government of Madras.

(4) Paragraphs not requiring any answer.

(5) Approve of the manner in which Lord Cornwallis communicated to the Poona *Durbar* his intention to take the field in person, and continue in India till the conclusion of the war.

2. No answer necessary.

(6) Are pleased that the negotiation with the Court of Poona relative to the principality of Gingerah was at length concluded; ability of Sir Charles Malet in arranging the business, and his integrity in refusing the Minister's offer of one lack of rupees.

(7) Express your sense of Lord Cornwallis's zeal for the service in proceeding to the Coast, and approve of the reinforcements ordered thither. With respect to the powers delegated to His Lordship, refer to the Act passed in the preceding session.

(8) Capture of Cannanore.

(9) Refer to paragraphs that do not require any answer.

(10) Approbation of the treaty with the Rajah of Cochin.

(11) Paragraphs that do not require any answer.

(12) Manner of applying to Sindia on the subject of some indignities suffered by the Resident at Broach from the Maratta Government approved.

(13) Paragraph not requiring a reply.

(14) Refer to a letter written to Madras on the 6th of May, 1791.

(15) Subjects adverted to in your letters to the Madras Government.

(16) Termination of the disagreement between the Nabob Vizier and Fyze Ulla Khan. The line which it is in the power of our Government to adopt on such occasions.

(17) Upon the office of *Vakeel Ul Mutluock* having been confirmed in *ultumgah* to the Peishwa and his heirs and successors by Shah Allum; orders in the case of its encroaching, at any time, on the right inherent in Asoph ul Dowlah as Vizier of the Empire.

(18) Approve of the manner in which we interfered upon a quarrel

3. We had the pleasure of transmitting a copy of this paragraph to Sir Charles Malet. The agreement which was concluded on this occasion has been lately ratified by the Governor General in Council.

4. No answer necessary.

5. Do not require any answer.

6. We shall pay the greatest attention to your instructions on this head.

7. Disagreements of this kind being merely accidental, and remedied as

between some of the Vizier's officers and a party of your sepoys. Trust that every precaution has been taken to prevent a repetition of these disagreements.

(19) The order given for two battalions of sepoys to move from Futtighur to Anoopshier on the application of Hyder Beg Khawn approved¹.

(20) Offer of pecuniary assistance made by the Nabob and his Minister at the commencement of the war, a strong proof of their attachment to the Company. Message to be delivered to them upon this occasion on your part. Further communication on the subject.

(21) Approve the orders that were given upon the arrival of one of the Princes in the neighbourhood of Patna, notwithstanding his promise to Mr. Duncan upon receiving a small sum of money at Benares.

(22) Refers to a short letter that requires no reply.

(23) Paragraph that requires no answer.

(24) Refers to a letter to Madras.

(25) Do Do Do

(26) Paragraphs that do not require any answer.

(27) Observe on the correspondence with the Residents at Poonah and Hyderabad referred to in our General Letters dated 31st of January and 4th of August, 1791. The general conduct of both Residents approved.

(28) Have been anxiously expecting the History of the Mahratta Empire, compiled by Sir Charles Malet², and said to have been transmitted to us, though it is not entered on our proceedings, excepting two or

soon as they occur, we do not know that any precaution to prevent them would be of material use, the intimate alliance between the Nabob and the Company affording as good a security against the repetition of such disputes as any rule we could lay down, or orders we could give, with a view to preclude it.

8. Does not require any answer.

9. Your orders have been attended to, and Mr. Ives delivered a letter on the occasion from Lord Cornwallis to the Nabob Vizier, who expressed himself to be always happy to have an opportunity of proving his attachment to the Company. The Company's bond to His Excellency for the 12 lacks has been paid and cancelled.

10. No answer necessary.

11. We had the satisfaction to transmit a copy of this paragraph to Sir Charles Malet and Sir John Kennaway.

12. The few sketches which you mention to be on our proceedings are the only parts that have been laid before us of the compilation undertaken by Sir Charles Malet of the History of the Mahratta Empire.

three short sketches. Orders in consequence. Desire to receive the political and historical glossary mentioned in Sir Charles Malet's letter recorded on our proceedings of the 16th of July, 1787.

Pleased with some sketches relative to the Nizam's Government by Sir John Kennaway, and desire that we will signify your wishes to that gentleman for his completing those sketches in the manner before directed in regard to Sir Charles Malet's History of the Mahrattas.

It would be highly gratifying to you to receive, if procurable, similar accounts respecting all the other native powers of Hindostan.

(29-30) Refer to paragraphs already replied to, or not requiring an answer.

(31) Manner of declining the offer of the Berar Rajah to furnish a body of cavalry to assist in the war approved.

(32) Refer to paragraphs that do not require a reply.

(33) Refer to a letter to Madras.

(34) Paragraphs already replied to.

(35) Approve of the orders given in consequence of the incursions of the Seiks into the territories of the Nabob Vizier. Hope that our endeavours for procuring the release of Colonel Stuart proved effectual.

(36-37) Paragraphs already replied to, or not requiring an answer.

(38) The answer sent by Lord Cornwallis to overtures from Tippoo Sultaun were perfectly agreeable to the treaties with your Allies.

(39) Advices from Madras of the junction of the armies.

we have therefore instructed our Secretary to write to him to beg he would furnish us with a copy of all that has been finished of it to be transmitted to your Honorable Court, whose wish has been communicated to him, that as soon as his other avocations conveniently admit, he should continue the history to as late a period as possible.

13. Your instructions upon a similar subject relative to Nizam Ally Khan have also been communicated to Sir John Kennaway, and we shall endeavour to obtain the corresponding accounts which you desire to receive in respect to all the other native powers of Hindostan. But we wish to apprise you that we do not think that the materials for this body of history can be procured from good sources without a good deal of expence, and that a considerable time will probably be employed in collecting them.

14. No answer necessary.

15. We had the pleasure to advice you of the release of Lieutenant Colonel Stuart in the 106 paragraph of our letter dated 1st of December, 1791.

(40) Paragraphs not requiring an answer.

(41) Capture of Durwar.

(42) Instructions to Bombay for its security under an apprehension of hostilities in Europe approved.

(43) Paragraph not requiring an answer.

(44) The orders issued (in the uncertain state of affairs between Great Britain and Spain) for completing the native corps approved.

(45-46) Paragraphs already replied to, or not requiring an answer.

(47) Satisfaction derived from Major Palmer's letter dated the 25th March, 1791. We are to cultivate and improve the friendship subsisting between the Company and Mahajee Scindia, but to take no part whatever in the disputes that may arise between the various contending powers in the Upper Provinces, confining our attention solely to the defence of the Company's territories, and those under the Government of the Nabob Vizier.

(48) Scindia's intention to proceed to his capital of Oggien, and ultimately to Poona.

(49) Our conduct to be regulated by circumstances as to the force stationed on the Vizier's northwest frontier. The necessary measures to be taken to prevent their suffering any material inconvenience, or being engaged in any disputes with the Mahrattas about the means of procuring the necessary forage.

(50) Paragraphs do not require any reply.

(51) Entertain a due sense of our zeal for the service in the early measures that were adopted after the battle of Seringapatam for supplying the army with bullocks and various necessary articles.

16. Paras 36-46 inclusive. No answer necessary.

17. It has been our constant rule dictated by the repeated orders of your Honorable Court to attend to this principle of policy, and we cannot see a possibility that any such contentions as those that are here mentioned can induce us to deviate from it.

18. Does not require any answer.

19. It is certainly the duty of the Commanding Officer of the troops that are stationed on that frontier to be guarded in these instances, and differences such as those here pointed out seldom happen.

20. No answer necessary.

(52) The exertions of the Residents at Poona and Hydrabad to supply the wants of either army entitled to your warmest commendation.

(53) At the conclusion of the war we shall be left at liberty to make such economical arrangements as will restore our finances, enable us to furnish the necessary sum to the provision of the investment, and discharge the arrears upon our civil and military establishments.

(54-55) Paragraphs already replied to, or not requiring any answer.

(56) Necessity of providing according to treaty for the due discharge of the *peishcush* to the Nizam.

(57) Paragraph already replied to.

(58) Refer to your advices to the Government of Madras.

(59) We did right in referring to Lord Cornwallis the dispute relative to the capture of the *Arab* snow on the Malabar Coast.

(60) Paragraph already replied to.

(61) Trust to our exertions to prevent the trifling difference said to subsist between the Vizier and the Rajah of Nepaul relative to some villages situated near the Bootan Hills from being productive of any embarrassing consequence.

(62) Approve of the manner in which we interfered to prevent disagreeable consequences from the improper correspondence between the Vizier and the subjects of Timur Shah. Rely on the continuance of our vigilance to check, in time, any measures at Lucknow that may have

21. The testimony borne by your Honorable Court to the exertions of Sir Charles Malet and Sir John Kennaway has been signified to those gentlemen.

22. We must refer to our advices from the different departments to exhibit from time to time the measures taken to accomplish the desirable purposes set forth in this paragraph.

23. No answer necessary.

24. Your Honorable Court will be duly informed of the resolutions we have come to for the purpose you mention. The obligation upon this Government is clearly indispensable to see that the Nizam's *peishcush* is regularly paid, and we shall observe it as a constant rule to have it forthcoming at the prescribed periods.

25. Do not require any answer.

26. The instruction in this paragraph will be duly attended to.

a tendency to disturb the tranquillity of the dominions of Oude.

(63) Paragraph already replied to. 27. No answer necessary.

(64) We are to continue to advise you, in the most circumstantial manner, of the various occurrences that may arise of a political nature, whether as affecting our own Presidency in particular, or the general government of your India possessions. 28. This order will be properly obeyed.

29. We have had the honor to send to you by the *General Goddard* a continuation of our proceedings in this Department for the months of September, October and November with our index to them and the other papers mentioned in the list of the packet.

*Fort St. George and Bombay, the Nabob Nizam Ally Khan,
Tippoo Sultaun and the Marattas.*

30. We shall trust to your receiving from the Governor in Council at Madras a full recital of the correspondence that has passed in relation to the duties that devolved to Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell upon his appointment to command the expedition against the Poligar of Shevigherry. The correspondence to which we refer, including the letters from this Government, is entered on our proceedings of the following dates.

10th	of	September	from	No. 5 to 24,	inclusive.
17th		do.	from	No. 2.	
24th		do.	from	No. 8 to 14,	do.
28th		do.	from	No. 1.	
8th	of	October	from	No. 14 to 28,	do.
2d	of	November	from	No. 1 to 15,	do.
9th		do.	from	No. 1 to 7,	do.
12th		do.	from	No. 1.	
16th		do.	from	No. ... to 4,	do.
23d		do.	from	No. 2 and 3.	

31. We are advised by a subsequent letter from the Governor in Council, dated the 20th ultimo, that the principal objects of Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell's expedition having been accomplished, he had separated the detachment, and discontinued field allowances to all the corps composing it, with the exception of a few companies which he had deemed it necessary to keep with himself until the settlement with the poligars should be finally effected.

32. Our opinion of the good conduct of Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell throughout the service upon which he was employed, and the notice we have taken of that of Mr. Torin, the Collector of the Poligar Peshcush, will be found in our letters to the Governor in Council at Fort St. George, dated the 15th and 26th of last September. It is incumbent on us to add that we cannot but highly approve of the steadiness and consistency of that Government in the measures adopted in the course of the service in question on every subject of

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tember, No. 1.

that required their orders and opinions for Colonel Maxwell's guidance to bring it to a proper and effectual termination.

33. It will not, we imagine, be thought improper that we should lay before you in this place the opinion we have signified to the Governor in Council, in our letter of the 15th of September, relative to the quarrels among the poligars in general, and the conduct to be observed towards them. It is expressed in the following words:—

“We need not describe to you how much the British name has been tarnished, both in Asia and in Europe, by some occurrences in India which have given rise to a belief that a traffic has been carried on of making and unmaking Nabobs by the Company's influence, and we are perfectly convinced that you will be as anxious as ourselves that no such practices shall exist, even in miniature, within the bounds of your authority.

“Our attention has been drawn to this very serious subject by the opinion that Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell has given in his letter to you, dated the 13th ultimo, that the disputes among the poligars are principally occasioned by unsettled boundaries, and by a variety of claimants to possessions and as a wide field must ever lay open to *dubashes* and other unprincipled men for criminal intrigue and infamous speculation. Whilst these inconsiderate people remain in so unfortunate a situation, we cannot too earnestly recommend to you to adopt, without loss of time, the measures which you may judge will be the most speedy and efficacious for introducing and establishing regulations that shall, in future, secure good order and quiet in those countries.

“Your own judgement and experience will, we are persuaded, suggest to you the means for accomplishing these desirable ends, and it will no doubt appear to you that part of the outline of such a plan should be to examine and decide immediately upon all disputed boundaries, and to cut off all hopes from the collateral branches of polygar families of being able, under our Government, to obtain support to antiquated claims upon possessions by the means of intrigue and corruption.

“Although it will be necessary that your Collector of the *Peishcush* should enforce all the Nabob's rights of sovereignty over the polygars, and also keep a vigilant eye upon their general conduct, we conceive that decisions upon rights of property should neither be left to him nor referred to the Nabob. But, on the contrary, whenever claims upon grounds that have a reasonable appearance shall be preferred by any of the branches of the polygar families, upon the whole or part of the possessions of the family, we are of opinion that substantial justice can only be secured by their being examined and ultimately decided upon by your Board.”

34. The answer of the Government of Madras to the opinion and recommendation we have quoted will be found in a letter, dated the 12th of October, and recorded on our proceedings of the 2d ultimo.

35. His Highness the Nabob Walau Jah, in consequence of disturbances in the Ongole and Nellore Districts created by the inroads of some thieves and plunderers, having called upon the Rajahs of Vencatgherry and Calastry to furnish an armed force of not less than a thousand peons and 25 troopers for the protection of those countries, the cause for which the requisition had been made appeared to the Governor in Council

Consn. 7 September,
Nos. 9 to 16 inclusive.
10th Do. No. 27.

to be trivial compared with the extent of the demand ; and it was apprehended that the zemindars would consider an order for peons to attend the *Phouzdar* of Nellore, and to be employed as he should think proper, to be inconsistent with that protection which was meant to be given them by the new arrangement. To adopt the words of the Governor in Council, "It is not difficult to foresee that such irregular and indefinite demands of troops will ultimately prove the same as demands of money, for troops cannot be supplied without expence, and, if the service be not very urgent, the Nabob will always gladly commute it for a sum of money."

36. We entirely agreed with the Governor in Council that the Nabob could have no real occasion for the services of the large number of peons that he had demanded from the Rajahs of Calastry and Vencata-gherry, and that great abuses and extortions might be committed by a frequent repetition of such demands upon those and the other polygars who now pay their *peishcush* directly to the Company. But, for the satisfaction of the Nabob, in the instances alluded to in our letter to the Madras Board of the 16th of September, and that he might have no reasonable ground to complain of any backwardness on our part to execute, with the utmost punctuality, the treaty that was lately concluded with him, we thought it would be most advisable that they should direct the two polygars to comply either wholly, or in part, according to the belief entertained of their ability, with the present requisition ; and we trusted that if His Highness, at any time hereafter, should make demands for services from any of the polygars which might appear to proceed more from an inclination to vex and distress them than from a want of their assistance to preserve good order in his country, the representations of the President against such demands, in civil and temperate language, would induce him either to modify or withdraw them.

37. A letter received from Madras since the date of our last advices and our answer to it relative to the form of the Nabob's *peruannahs* to his tributaries (mentioned in the 33d paragraph of our letter by the *Ganges*^a) will be found on our proceedings of the date annexed.

38. Our consultation of the 26th of October contains a letter from the Madras Government with enclosures, among which is a report from Messrs. Moubray and Woolf, the two gentlemen deputed to His Highness's *Durbar* to state his account with the Company. We merely refer to these papers at present as they are to be found upon our records, for we shall probably have occasion, in a short time, to address you more fully on the subject.

39. The letters which have been recorded from the Nabob and his eldest son since the dispatch of the *Ganges* will be found in our consultations noted in the margin.

Consuln. 7th September, Nos. 1 to 8, including a letter written to the Nabob by the Governor General.

Consn. 10 September, No. 25,

40. You will receive, as numbers in the packet, translations of letters received from Tippoo Sultann, and his *vakeels*, and written to them since our advices by the *Ganges*, and we beg leave to refer to them as to a part of our narrative, *vizt.*,

Consn. 24 September, Nos. 15 & 16.

Letters from Tippoo Sultann to Lord Cornwallis, received on the 15 of September. His Lordship's answer to him written on the 21st of September.

Consn. 30th November, No. 2.

A letter of the same date from the Persian Translator to the *vakeels*. One from the same to the same, written on the 10th of October.

Consn. 30th November, No. 5.

A letter to Tippoo from Lord Cornwallis, written on the 22 October.

Consn. 30th November, No. 6.

--Do-- of the same date to the *vakeels* from the Persian Translator.

Consn. 30th November, No. 7.

And, another to the same from the same, written on on the 26th of November.

41. We beg leave to refer to our proceedings of the annexed date as containing an account which we received from Madras of an incursion of some polygars into the Daraporam District. The *Pradani* or Minister of Veerepatchee (the principal agent in the disturbances complained of by Tippoo's Manager at Daraporam), having been summoned to the *cutcherry* of the Collector at Dindigul to answer for his conduct, was made prisoner by Major Dalrymple, and sent to Dindigul, where he is to remain until ample restitution of the property taken from the Daraporam people shall have been obtained, and satisfaction given to Government for the injuries committed under his authority.

Consn. 22d October, Nos. 5 to 10 inclusive.

Consn. 2d November, Nos. 17, 18, 19.

42. The Government of Fort St. George were of opinion that the measure of securing the *Predani* will probably render an adjustment practicable without employing troops; but they proposed to levy, by way of punishment, a fine on this man for his misconduct, which might be the means of deterring others from similar acts of irregularity in future.

43. The *vakeels* of Tippoo Sultann having delivered to Sir Charles Oakeley a letter from their master, stating that Golam Mahi-ud-deen, the Talookdar of Ducherrycotah, having received twenty thousand pagodas, had proved unfaithful to his duty, and fled to Kistnagherry, orders were sent to Captain Alexander Read to secure the person of that talookdar, and keep him in confinement at Kistnagherry until proper people authorized by Tippoo should arrive to receive him.

Consn. 5th November, Nos. 1-2.

44. It was also represented to Sir Charles Oakeley by the *vakeels* that the Polygars of Charcul, Natgoonte, Curegoody &ca. had collected peons, and were disturbing the countries above the *ghauts*. This information was, in consequence, immediately sent to Captain Alexander Read, with directions to make the necessary inquiries and to restrain the polygars, by every means in his power, from committing any irregularities in the territories belonging to Tippoo Sultann.

Consn. 29 October, Nos. 1-2.

45. The intelligence received at different times from the Mysore country, and transmitted to us by the Governor in Council at Fort St. George, will be found on our proceedings noted in the margin. You will observe that Tippoo had destroyed the fort of Ossoor, and it was supposed that he intended to demolish Bangalore and the other forts situated north east of Seringapatam.

Consn. 17th October, Nos. 2-3.
 Consn. 9th November, Nos. 8-9.
 Consn. 12th Do. Nos. 2-3.
 Consn. 23 Do. Nos. 4-5.

46. The Government of Madras, in dispatches dated the 6th of September, laid before us a minute from Sir Charles Oakeley on the subject of the agreement recommended by the Governor General to be made with the Rajah of Tanjore previous to the restoration of that country to his management, and a copy of the treaty framed in consequence on the same principles as that lately entered into with the Nabob, and comprehending the latest arrangement of your Honorable Court with respect to the Rajah's payments; and this draft of the treaty had our entire approbation.

Consn. 24 September, Nos. 4, 5, 6.
 Consn. 24th September, No. 7.

47. But before our answer could have been received at Fort St. George, we were advised that the Rajah had declined executing the treaty for various reasons stated in his letter, to which we beg leave to refer, but of very insufficient weight to induce a departure from any one of its several stipulations.

Consn. 22d October, Nos. 1-4.

48. We could not help taking notice of the terms in which the Rajah's letter was expressed; and although we entertained a very unfavourable opinion of his character, we could hardly believe that he would have ventured to write such a letter accompanied with so gross a mis-statement of facts, if he had not been encouraged by some European adviser, and as such advisers might continue to interfere with the most mischievous effects, both to the Rajah's own real interests and those of the Company, we thought that unless he could be brought to disengage himself from them, and to reflect seriously on the duty which he owed to you, and to his own subjects, it might be deserving of consideration, whether, as he had no male heirs, it would not be advisable, as a measure of restraint upon his conduct, to declare Serfajee presumptive heir to the *raje*. We were also of opinion that unless the Government of Madras should see any material objections to it that did not occur to us, Serfajee and the females of the late Rajah's family should be removed to Madras, not only as a means of securing good treatment to the whole family, but particularly to enable the Government to take care that the young man should be properly educated.

Consn. 22d October, No. 12.

49. Another letter from the Rajah of Tanjore to Sir Charles Oakeley, and one to the Governor General, continuing his objections to the treaty, were now laid before us. A copy of Lord Cornwallis's answer to that addressed to His Lordship will be sent a number in the packet.

Consn. 16 November, Nos. 5, 6, 7.

50. The necessity of removing Serfogee from Tanjore, according to the opinion sent to the Madras Government, who entirely concurred in it, soon became apparent, his person being exposed to imminent danger from the

Rajah's disposition towards him, as you will observe from the enclosed copies of dispatches from the Madras Government, and the Reverend Mr. Swartz, dated the 17th and 12th of last month.

51. To these we shall add the copy of a further letter, dated the 20th, from the Governor in Council, and of the papers that came with it, exhibiting the temper and conduct of the Rajah of Tanjore in so unfavorable a light that it became a doubt with the Government of Fort St. George how far it would be safe or prudent at this juncture to trust him with the management of his country under the provisions contained in the treaty which he had not yet executed. Difficulties were also stated to arise from the time he had taken to consider it, and the Governor in Council has given us notice that he should delay the execution of it, and the delivery of the Rajah's country to him, until he should receive our further authority for that purpose. We shall take up the question after the close of these dispatches, and acquaint you with our determination in our next letter.

52. We have the satisfaction to acquaint you that the boy Serfojee, and the widows of the late Rajah, by the means of Mr. Swartz and Captain Wallace, have effected their release from the palace without occasioning the least disturbance, and are now, probably, on their way to Madras. They are extremely grateful for their deliverance from the Rajah's authority, and the vexations they suffered under it.

53. In our proceedings of the 8th of October you will see recorded a letter from the Government of Fort St. George, enclosing one from the Nabob, a translation of a treaty actually concluded between His Highness and the Dutch relative to the pearl and *chunk* fisheries of Tutacorin, the answer sent to that communication, and several other papers on the subject.

Consn. 8th October,
Nos. 1 to 12 in-
clusive.

54. After the correspondence that passed at the beginning of last year concerning the treaty which had then been formed, but not ratified by the Nabob, just hopes were entertained that no further measures would have been taken to conclude it; but His Highness, not regarding the opinions which had been so pointedly given, thought it expedient, in the month of April last, to affix his seal and signature to it, and now, for the first time, announced the act to the Governor in Council at Madras.

55. It gave us great concern to find that the Nabob had ratified the treaty with so little attention either to his own interests or his engagements with the Company, and we highly approved of the terms in which Sir Charles Oakely had conveyed his sentiments in that instance. But as it appeared by the correspondence between the late Sir Archibald Campbell and the Ameer ul Omrah, that Sir Archibald had not only sanctioned the negotiation in 1788, but had even been so unguarded as to recommend an European gentleman, not in the Company's service, to be the Nabob's embassadeur upon so delicate a mission, and seeing also that the 10th article of the treaty, which is particularly exceptionable, refers to some old privileges which the Dutch are supposed to have enjoyed in the countries mentioned in it, we thought that it would be most advisable, at present, to take no further notice of the transaction.

Consn. 17 October,
No. 1.



TO THE MEMORY OF THE
 REVEREND CHRISTIAN FREDERIC SWARTZ,
 BORN AT SONNENBURG OF NEUMARK IN THE KINGDOM OF PRUSSIA,
 THE 25TH OF OCTOBER 1720,
 AND DIED AT TANJORE THE 15TH OF FEBRUARY 1794,
 IN THE 72ND YEAR OF HIS AGE,
 DEVOTED FROM HIS EARLY MANHOOD TO THE OFFICE OF
 MISSIONARY IN THE EAST.
 THE SIMILARITY OF HIS SITUATION TO THAT OF
 THE FIRST PREACHERS OF THE GOSPEL,
 PRODUCED IN HIM A PECULIAR RESEMBLANCE TO
 THE SIMPLE SANCTITY OF THE
 APOSTOLIC CHARACTER.
 HIS NATURAL VIVACITY WON THE AFFECTION
 AS HIS UNSPOTTED PROBITY AND PURITY OF LIFE
 ALIKE COMMANDED THE
 REVERENCE OF THE
 CHRISTIAN, MAHOMEDAN, AND HINDU.
 FOR SOVEREIGN PRINCES, HINDU, AND MAHOMEDAN,
 SELECTED THIS HUMBLE PASTOR
 AS THE MEDIUM OF POLITICAL NEGOCIATION WITH
 THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.
 AND THE VERY MARBLE THAT HERE RECORDS HIS VIRTUES
 WAS RAISED BY
 THE LIBERAL AFFECTION AND ESTEEM OF THE
 RAJA OF TANJORE
 MAHA RAJA SIRFOJEE.

Sarbhoji, Raja of Tanjore, visiting Rev. Schwartz
 on his death bed.

56. Some papers afterwards received on the subject from Madras Consn. 29th October, will be found on our proceedings of the annexed Nos. 3 to 7 inclusive. date.

57. With a letter from that Government, dated the 31st of August, they submitted to us a proposition brought forward by their President for requiring from the Rajah of Travancore a certain proportion of his revenues towards the maintenance and support of the ordinary expences of the Company's military establishments that are kept for the general defence; and as that proportion (*star pagodas* 42,768 per annum, which was the sum agreed to be paid by him in 1788 for the two battalions of your sepoys stationed by his own desire in his country) had been taken upon a very reduced scale, and could be borne by the Rajah without the smallest inconvenience, it was imagined that measure would not be disapproved by us. It received our entire approbation.

Consn. 24 September, No. 1-2.

Consn. 24 September, No. 3-4.

58. We beg leave to refer to our proceedings of the 24th of August which contain a translation of the answer given by Tippoo's *vakeels*, in their master's name, to Lord Cornwallis's representation on the subject of the three talooks claimed by the Rajah of Travancore, but considered by Tippoo at the late treaty of peace as belonging to the Rajah of Cochin, and being therefore at Tippoo's disposal, he exercised a right to cede them to the Company. In the same consultation you will find a proposal made in consequence by His Lordship, to send an *aumeen* or deputy from each party to the spot.

Consn. 24 of August.

59. It has been recommended to General Abercromby that, if Tippoo should agree to His Lordship's propositions, Mr. Powney should be appointed to be the deputy on the part of the Company, as that gentleman appears to have obtained very accurate information respecting the time and manner in which those talooks came into the possession of the Rajah of Travancore.

Consn. 10 September, No. 38.

60. We beg leave to acquaint you that, in pursuance of the intention signified in the 14th paragraph of our letter by the *Ganges*, in that written to you by Lord Cornwallis on the 5th of April, and in His Lordship's letter to Major General Abercromby dated the 23d of March, of which we enclose a copy, we deputed Mr. Jonathan Duncan and Mr. Charles Boddam to be Commissioners to the Malabar Coast for the purposes therein mentioned, and they have proceeded on the service.

61. Copies of their instructions, and of the letters written concerning their appointment to the Government of Bombay, Major General Abercromby, the Resident at Travancore, and the deputies appointed on a similar commission from the Bombay Presidency, will be sent numbers in the packet, with a copy of a minute entered in our proceedings of the 5th ultimo, by which your Honorable Court will observe the circumstances in which the Bengal Commissioners are placed in regard to their expences &c., with the salary given to Mr. Boddam, and that Mr. Treves, the Head Assistant at Benares,

had been ordered to act as Resident during Mr. Duncan's absence, receiving for that period an additional monthly allowance of Sa. Rs. 1,500.

62. We take the liberty of referring to our proceedings of the 8th of October, which contain a letter received by the Governor
 Consn. 8th October, October, which contain a letter received by the Governor
 Nos. 50 to 56, General from Mr. Gamul Farmer, one of the Commis-
 inclusive. sioners from Bombay. The preceding advices from him-
 self and Major Dow were noticed in the 14th paragraph of our letter by the
Ganges.

63. You will be informed by the Bombay Government of a correspon-
 dence which has passed between the Governor of the French factory at Mahi
 Consn. 8th October, and the Chief at Tellicherry concerning some boats that
 Nos. 37 to 42, in May, 1790, were taken in the offing of that port by your
 inclusive. cruizers, having been laden with rice that came from
 Tippoo's country to the northward, and relative to a district near Mahi, claimed
 by the French, and situated in that division of the coast which was ceded to
 us at the last treaty of peace; and we shall transmit in the packet, a copy
 of the answer which we sent to the Governor in Council at Bombay upon these
 subjects on the 12th of October. A translation of the letter written by Lord
 Cornwallis to Tippoo Sultaun relative to the district to which the French
 Governor at Mahi has pretended a right is entered in our consultations of the
 30th of November; and we have only to add on this subject that the Bombay
 Commissioners on the Malabar Coast have been instructed to investigate and
 ascertain, with precision, the boundaries of the territories that were possessed
 in the neighbourhood of Mahi by the French and Tippoo at the commence-
 ment of the war.

64. Governor Anker at Tranquebar having represented to Lord
 Cornwallis that the Danish factory at Calicut^a and the ground on which it
 stands are the property of His Danish Majesty, and
 Foreign Department requested that this might be signified to your servants
 proceedings, 6th on that coast, we referred the matter to the Government
 August, No. 2. of Bombay, who have instructed their Commissioners to investigate the claim,
 and report upon it without delay.

65. Some correspondence has passed between the Governor in Council
 at that Presidency and the Captain General of Goa upon a point of naval
 etiquette occasioned, as the complaint stated, by one of
 Consn. 8th October, our ships of war preventing a Portuguese frigate, called
 Nos. 44 to 48, the *Real Fidelissima*, from firing a morning and an
 inclusive. evening gun in Bombay harbour. The matter was referred to the
 Commodore.

66. Major General Abercromby having in the course of his correspon-
 dence with Lord Cornwallis mentioned it as his opinion that the interest of the
 Company would be benefited by the re-establishment of
 Consn. 19th Septem- their factory at Onore^r, from whence considerable quan-
 ber, No. 2. tities of pepper and sandalwood were formerly exported,
 and having also taken notice that they had likewise *banksauls* at Mirjee,
 Candapore, and Mangalore, the latter being the greatest mart upon the coast
 for rice, it was signified to Tippoo's *vakeels* that the Company intended to
 exercise the commercial privileges that were granted to them by Hyder Ally

and confirmed by the treaty; but it was recommended to General Abercromby that, as those rights were not claimed by the Company during the last peace, and have now remained so long dormant, he should not take any steps towards their re-establishment until we know how far Tippoo conceives them to extend.

67. You will observe, in our consultations of the annexed dates, the demand again made by the Government of Bombay upon the Malwan Rajah^s to pay his debt to the Company and recover from him the value of property belonging to the Bombay merchants, and seized at different times by his piratical fleet, amounting altogether to a large sum of money. This requisition was attended with an assurance that your Government would take the necessary measures to indemnify themselves if he did not discharge the debt immediately, and as, in the event of your being obliged to proceed to extremities against this piratical chief, it would be necessary to have the assistance of the King's ships, we wrote to the Commodore, at General Abercromby's desire, to request that he would be pleased to send to Bombay such part of the squadron as he might think sufficient to be prepared to co-operate with the force of the Bombay Government in the case we have mentioned. The Rajah's answer is recorded on our proceedings of the 26th October. It was evasive, and General Abercromby thought that no means short of force would ensure to you proper satisfaction for his unprovoked and repeated insults; but as he was in some measure dependant on the Mahrattas at Poonah, it was thought advisable to sound the *Durbar* upon the intention to employ an armament against Malwan.

68. It appeared to us that the former behavior of the Malwan Rajah in not accommodating his disputes with the Company under the favorable interposition and mediation of the Court of Poonah, which we at that time most readily accepted, and afterwards declining the further good offices of that Court, deprived him of all claim for interference, in his favor, on the part of the Marattas, and that his renewal of his piratical attacks at the commencement of the last war, as well as his last evasive letter to the Governor of Bombay, gave us no reason to believe that it would be possible, by moderate means, to bring this matter to a satisfactory termination.

69. But although we conceived it to be necessary to impress the Rajah with an idea of, and perhaps to make him feel, our power to avenge the insults and injuries that we had received from him, yet as Sir C. Malet thought that he was not possessed of the means of discharging the whole of what was due by him to the Company, and that, when sufficiently humbled, he might from his local situation, and family circumstances, be converted into an useful friend, and as we, on the other hand, apprehended that his absolute ruin might prove embarrassing to ourselves, and create some degree of alarm and jealousy in the minds of the Marattas, we recommended to the Bombay Government that as far as our honor, and the security of our commerce, admitted, they should ultimately pursue a lenient course.

70. We advised them that we had dispatched a vessel to the An Island with our request to the Commodore that

force under his command to co-operate with theirs against the Malwan Rajah, but that as the time of the Commodore's arrival at the Andamans was uncertain, we could not say how soon that assistance might be expected.

71. On the 14th of September a letter was laid before us from Major Palmer acquainting us that Bhow Bucksby had, at length, received an answer from Sindia to the many applications that had been made for the King's *sunnu*s of investiture to the Nabob of Surat, which had been delayed, it would seem, for no purpose but to demand an increase of *nuzzeranna* on his accession to the *musnud* beyond the amount that was paid, on a similar occasion, by the father of the present Nabob. A copy of Major Palmer's letter on the subject to Mr. Griffiths, the Chief of the factory, will be found on our consultations of the date annexed.

72. Had this *nuzzeranna*, now augmented to twenty-five thousand rupees, been asked by Sindea on the first application for the *sunnu*s, we should probably have recommended to the Nabob to comply with his demand; but, after having been amused with promises for three years, we determined to take no further concern about so trifling a business which we, from the first, considered as a mere matter of empty form.

73. It would rest with the Nabob himself to yield to this claim or not, as he might think proper; but we resolved, in either case, not to admit of any further unnecessary delay in confirming him in his station; and therefore desired that the Bombay Government would give the proper instructions to the Chief of Surat to place the Nabob in the full possession of his office, waiting however two months after the receipt of our letter in order to give Sindea full time, if he chose it, for the transmission of the King's *sunnu*s.

74. Major Palmer was made acquainted with these instructions that he might communicate them to Sindea, informing him also that we could not admit the allegation of orders from Shaw Allum as an apology for his conduct, but should ever consider the acts of the Court of Delhi as coming immediately from himself.

75. In the 35th, 36th and 37th paragraphs of our letter by the *Ganges*, we took notice of the complaints made by the Resident at Broach of the outrage committed by Sindea's *Aumil* at that place, and we advised you of the satisfaction we expected for them. We also observed that, before this was notified to Sindia, he had expressed his positive disapproval of the conduct of his *Aumil*, Lallabye, and promised a degree of reparation, but not to the extent that he would afterwards find was required of him.

76. Sindea's answer to Major Palmer's letter acquainting him with Lord Cornwallis's sentiments upon this business, and the degree of redress that was thought necessary, was in these terms:

"My friend, how much so ever the Governor General may be disposed to maintain and strengthen our connection, my inclination towards

that end exceeds His Lordship's. Immediately on hearing of the disputes and disagreements at Broach, and prior to the receipt of your friendly letter, I gave repeated and positive, pointed orders to Lalloo Bhaye, forbidding him and desiring him to abstain from all acts that militate against the rules of the intimacy subsisting between us, and directing him to apologize for, and to remove the bad effects of, what had passed, as well as to punish, in an exemplary manner, the behaviour of the Afghans. Lalloo Bhaye, who, notwithstanding that, in consequence of the disagreements, had used many arguments, and reported various circumstances in corroboration of his innocence, nevertheless made apologies, and sought the pleasure of the English Resident, pursuant to my orders. As my inclination is wholly bent on preserving and strengthening our friendship, I was not satisfied with this, but summoned Lalloo Bhaye to my presence. He has in consequence been here about 2 or 3 days, and shall be reprimanded and checked in the manner that shall be expedient."

77. But Major Palmer, upon observing afterwards that no punishment appeared to have been inflicted on the Afghans who murdered the Company's sepoy, thought it necessary to repeat Lord Cornwallis's requisition for justice on those atrocious offenders; and although the acceptance of Lalla Bhaye's concessions, and the return of Mr. Crowe to the factory of Broach might be deemed a sufficient reparation for the misconduct of that *Aumil*, he has judged it indispensable to intimate to Sindca the impropriety and indelicacy of the public countenance and distinction which he is even still said to shew to a man against whom our Government has had so many and heavy causes of complaint. He was solicitous that the Maratta chief should consider this representation in the most friendly and serious light, recollecting the generous conduct of the English Government in conveying to him the province of Broach without any promise or equivalent, which made it peculiarly incumbent on him to guard and protect the few rights and privileges which the Company had reserved for their factory; and he gave him to understand that the Governor General would think it incumbent on him to support the dignity of the Company's Government, and to maintain the security of their servants and subjects, by insisting on redress in the mode already specified.

78. The detail which we have given in this narrative has not conveniently admitted of our taking earlier notice of the subjects of our correspondence with your Residents at the Courts of Hydrabad and Poonah since the date of our last dispatches. We are now to revert to it.

79. We communicated to you in our letter by the *Ganges* the instructions that had been sent to those Residents to negotiate a Treaty of Guarantee between the Company, the Nizam and the Marattas on the basis of the 13th and 10th articles of the treaties of alliance that were formed at the beginning of the late war.

80. The correspondence which we have had before us on this subject will be found on our consultations of the annexed dates. You will observe that some doubts were entertained of the necessity of the measure, the treaties as they stood being deemed sufficient, and that further instructions were desired.

Consn. 8 October,
No. 35.
" 22d Do. No. 13.
" 29th Do. No. 8.
" 12th November,
Nos. 4, 5, 6
& 14.
" 23d Do. No. 8.

81. As the public service could suffer no injury by postponing the execution of those which had been already given, we were very glad to receive the sentiments of your Residents fully and without reserve upon a point of so much delicacy and importance. But after having deliberately reconsidered the subject, with the reasoning upon it, we were still of opinion that it would be most desirable that your guarantee engagements with your Allies should be put into clear and explicit terms, instead of remaining, as at present, in a form which, being rather general and vague, might expose us, at some future day, to the hazard of being called upon to adopt a line of conduct different from the original intention of our agreements, or, in case of a refusal on our part, to the imputation of a breach of public faith.

82. Being, however, aware of the jealousy and art of the Maratta character, and of the looseness and irregularity of principle so apparent in the Nizam's Government, we were sensible that considerable caution would be necessary on this occasion; and we knew that we could entirely rely upon your Residents for exercising the utmost discretion in endeavouring to make the proposition in such a way as should impress their respective *Durbars* with the conviction that we had no other object in view than that which we professed, *vizt.*, to put the mutual guarantee for which we stand engaged to each other in so clear a form that the true meaning and extent of the agreement may not, at a future period, admit of dispute or misconstruction by any of the parties.

83. It would soon appear whether our Allies were willing to meet our wishes upon this point, and, should they manifest any evasion, or even backwardness, we have desired that it may not be pressed upon them, as it could answer no useful purpose; but if, in the latter case, it should be judged advisable to withdraw the proposition, we expect that they will explicitly avow the meaning they affix to our present engagements and we have instructed the Residents to deliver a written declaration on our part that we consider the three powers to be bound to each other to act with their whole force against Tippoo, in the event of his attacking either of them without clear and just provocation, but in no other case whatever, and that the plan of operations is to be settled when war shall appear to be inevitable.

84. It was urged by Sir Charles Malet, in his correspondence with Sir John Kennaway, that the respective situations of the Nizam and the Peshwah would induce them to take different lines in regard to the Treaty of Guarantee, the former being as anxious to promote, as the Court of Poonah would be to avoid, arrangements that might be expected to be more or less conducive to giving him a security to which His Highness's own power by itself is inadequate, for the Nizam, being protected by a general defensive league, would be thus liberated from the present influence of the Court of Poonah over him, and its views of further subjugation.

85. But the negotiation is suspended for another more powerful reason, the unsettled state of affairs at Poonah; and all discussion of a Treaty of Guarantee is to be postponed, both there and at Hyderabad, until the present political contest between Nana Furnavese and Mahajee Sindia shall have been decided, and the administration of the Peshwa's Government clearly established in the hands of one of the parties.

86. A visit to Poonah by Meer Allum on the part of the Nizam seemed to be determined on for the purpose of adjusting a point in dispute concerning arrears of *chout*, and to settle other subjects of litigation between the two Courts.
- Consr. 7th September, No. 18.
 „ 30th November, No. 9.
 „ 5th December, No. 5.

87. But we do not know whether this design may not be interrupted by another, of which we have lately been advised by Sir John Kennaway, who informs us that Sindia had expressed a desire for Azeem ul Omrah's presence at Poonah when the time would be proper for it (meaning, we suppose, when Sindia's power shall be compleatly established), and that he intended to comply with it, in which case, it would be the Nizam's wish that Sir John Kennaway should accompany the Minister, and that the Company's detachment should attend him merely as his private guard, without any view or intention of their being otherwise employed. A copy of Sir John Kennaway's letter upon this subject will be sent a number in the packet.

88. We cannot perceive how the intended visit of Azeem ul Omrah to Poonah can be productive of any advantage to the Nizam; but in the event of a total change in the Poonah Ministry, and of Azeem ul Omrah's persevering in his resolution to accept Sindia's invitation to visit the Peshwah, we do not wish that your Resident should urge any objection to it on the part of this Government.

89. In a different situation, however, of public affairs, we should, without hesitation, have refused our consent to the Minister's being attended either by your Resident, or the Company's battalions in His Highness's pay. But conceiving it to be highly probable that Sir John Kennaway would be able, by his weight with the Minister, to prevent several bad effects that might otherwise arise from the natural levity and inconsiderateness of his character, and looking upon it [to be] also of great importance to discourage all hopes in Tippoo of profiting from the internal dissensions amongst the Marattas, and of evading the execution of any part of the late treaty, we determined, under certain restrictions, to agree to both the requests made by the Nizam, as we might have an opportunity by that means, not only of defeating any intrigue that might be attempted by Tippoo, but of convincing him likewise that the connection and friendship between the three allied powers still continues in their full strength.

90. The conditions which we annex to our consent are that a total change shall have previously taken place in the Poonah Ministry; that the Nizam shall inform the Peshwa that His Highness has requested Sir John Kennaway to attend his Minister with the Company's two battalions on his visit to Poonah; and that the Peshwa's entire approbation of the compliance with the request shall be publicly notified to Sir Charles Malet, and communicated by him to the Resident at Hyderabad before the commencement of his journey.

91. Our reasons for the above conditions are that we should not chuse that the appearance of your Resident or troops at Poonah could be made use of to influence, in the smallest degree, the decision of the struggle between the contending political parties; and it appears to us that the Peshwa's explicit approbation of the measure is indispensably necessary, both because it would not be proper that your troops should enter his territories without his consent,

and that, after having declined to permit Major Palmer to attend Sindea on his visit, there is a delicacy to be observed on our part in allowing Sir John Kennaway to accompany another visitor, though not a subject of the Maratta State, without the Peshwa's positive sanction.

92. Sir John Kennaway was informed that he would receive all the necessary communications from Poona through Sir Charles Malet, to whom he would, as usual, immediately forward a copy of these instructions; and he was desired in the case of his proceeding on the above-mentioned visit with the Minister, to leave the charge of the business of the Residency with the Nizam in the hands of his Assistant.

93. We shall transmit to you, a number in the packet, a copy of a minute recorded by the Governor General, on the 17th of September, respecting an acknowledgement to be made to Meer Allum for the services he has rendered to the Company. His Lordship's minute states the amount of the compensation, and the reasons for allowing it, and we have no doubt that our ready acquiescence in it will receive the approbation of your Honorable Court.

Consn. 17 Septem-
ber, No. 10.

94. In our despatches by the *Ganges*, we communicated to you the instructions we had sent to Sir John Kennaway concerning Runmust Khan. What has since been written to us on the subject will be found on our proceedings of the annexed dates.

Consn. 7th Septem-
ber, Nos. 21, 22,
23, 24.

Consn. 8th October,
No. 34.

" 26th Do. No.
10.

" 12th Novem-
ber, No. 15.

95. We have the satisfaction to inform you that Bulharree was delivered over, some time ago, on the part of Tippoo to Jessarut ul Dowlah, the officer appointed by the Nizam to receive it.

96. The several papers that have been recorded since we wrote by the *Ganges* relative to the provision to be made for the payment of the arrears due to the Nizam for *peshcush* and the *kist* of the current year will be found in our consultations in the margin.

Consn. 7th Septem-
ber, Nos. 16a
to 16z inclu-
sive.

Consn. 10 Septem-
ber, No. 26.

Consn. 28th Do.
No. 2.

Consn. 2d Novem-
ber, No. 20.

97. The sum of four lacks of rupees on account of the arrears was tendered at Madras by the order of that Government to Hurry Dhutt and Bhuth Bowanny Sunker, *soukars*, but they declined taking it, stating as a reason that they had written to the Nizam, and must wait his answer, before they could receive or pass a receipt for any sum on account of the *peshcush*. We are not yet advised that the doubt or scruple, from whatever cause it arose, on this subject has been removed.

98. Sir John Kennaway having informed us that His Highness's Minister preferred receiving payment of the *peshcush* at Masulipatam to receiving

- Consn. 10 September, Nos. 28, 29, 30.
 „ 28th September, Nos. 3, 4.
 „ 16th November, Nos. 19, 20.
 „ 20th November, No. 13.

it at Madras, we determined to take upon ourselves the discharge of it; and, after some correspondence with the Resident at Benares, the particulars of which are recorded, we directed him to enter into an agreement with the House of Bowanny Doss Sah for the payment of 3 lacks and half of arcot rupees¹⁰ in silver of the Masulipatam currency at that place on the 31st of October, 1792, and the same sum on the 31st of March,

1793, relying upon the Governor in Council at Fort St. George to discharge the arrears that might be reported by Sir John Kennaway to be due to His Highness for the *peshcush* to the end of the Fussily year 1200, ending in September, 1791. We have received advise that the first *kist* above-mentioned has been discharged and have accepted the bill drawn for the amount by the Chief and Council at Masulipatam, payable from the Benares treasury.

99. The Governor General presented to the Nizam's Minister in camp, for His Highness's service, ten heavy guns (iron 18 lbs.) which there had been some difficulty in conveying to Vellore; and as it would not be very easy to drag them from thence to Hydrabad, His Lordship authorized Sir John Kennaway to acquaint His Highness that, when the rains were over, he would send an equal number to Masulipatam, from whence they might be easily transported to His Highness's capital. The Governor in Council at Fort St. George has been in consequence requested to give orders that these guns may be sent in February next to Masulipatam, and to advise Sir John Kennaway when they are dispatched that he may recommend to the Nizam to send proper persons with bullocks to remove them.

100. Captain Dallas having been employed by the Madras Government to purchase horses at Hydrabad for their native cavalry, the Governor in Council, at the recommendation of Sir John Kennaway, agreed that he should have a credit on Bengal for the advances he might require on this account. But, as the debt here had greatly accumulated during the late war, we were very desirous to apply to its reduction all the sums we could command; and as it was very probable that the treasury at Madras would be well supplied by the payments from Tippoo, we expressed a wish that Captain Dallas might draw upon that Presidency for the whole sum that he might expend for the purchase of horses for the cavalry of their establishment. However, before this instruction could be received, drafts were made on us, and they have of course been accepted.

101. The papers received from Sir John Kennaway relative to the detachment commanded by Major Roberts will be found on our proceedings of the dates annexed.

- Consn. 17th September, No. 9.
 „ 8 October, No. 34.
 „ 9 November, Nos. 9A-10.
 „ 12 Do. Nos. 6, 10, 11.
 „ 16 Do. Nos. 15, 16, 17.
 „ 23 Do. Nos. 6-7.

102. The Resident at Hyderabad having referred to us a request from Monsieur Raymond¹¹, an officer in the Nizam's service, for a passport through the Company's territories to enable him to execute a commission from His Highness for the purpose of muskets, cannon, cloth, and other articles to the extent of one lack of rupees, we had no objection to authorize the passport, provided application for it should be made to the Nizam or by his direct authority.

103. Our proceedings noted in the margin contained some information sent to the Madras Government by Sir John Kennaway of the arrival at Hyderabad of two English sailors named Alexander Tinby and James Baker, who had escaped from confinement in Chirtledroog. The circumstances of their capture are stated in the letter, with the intelligence they gave of two Europeans and several natives belonging to the Company being confined in Gooty. Sir John Kennaway recommended that Tippoo's *vakeels* should be required to apply to their master for an order to the *killadar* of Goote to deliver these people to such persons as, on obtaining the order, he would send to Gooty to receive them. But from a subsequent circumstance in the conduct of the informant he was not inclined to place that reliance on their testimony which he before thought it deserved.

104. Tippoo's *vakeels* declared their ignorance of any English prisoners being in confinement at Gooty, but promised to procure an order to the Commandant directing him immediately to liberate every person of that description.

105. A representation having been made to Tippoo by the *kelladar* of Rydroog, and transmitted to his *vakeels*, that a person named Esah-mean belonging to the Nizam had arrived at a place called Tarmeri with a body of horse and foot, and plundered and carried off a great number of sheep and cattle, the property of Tippoo's *Sirkar*, with goods and effects of the ryotts of the same talook, and that other persons in the Nizam's service had committed unwarrantable oppressions &c. in the neighbouring districts, a copy of the complaint was sent to Sir John Kennaway, whose letter on the subject to Meer

Allum, and the answer of the latter, will be found on our proceedings of the annexed date. It was promised that the strictest orders should be sent to Mulick

Eessa, without delay, to restore whatever he might have taken, and to abstain on all occasions from such practices as the *kelladar* of Rydroog had accused him of. The caution necessary to be preserved

Consn. 12 November, Nos. 7, 8, 9,

Consn. 16 November, Nos. 9, 11, 14,

as may occur to him to induce a due performance of the treaty on the part of the Nizam as furnishing the strongest grounds on which he could claim it from Tippoo Sultaun. A similar order was also sent to Sir Charles Malet.

Consn. 30 November, Nos. 3 & 4.

106. We have been considerably disappointed at not having heard that

the first *kist* which, according to the declaration of Tippoo's *vakeels*, was dispatched long ago to the Nizam and the Marattas has yet been received by either of those powers; and although we saw no reason to suppose that Tippoo would venture to fail in the performance of that part of the treaty, we have thought it incumbent on us to be upon our guard, and it could not escape our observation that we were particularly called upon to attend to the interests of your Allies as we were entrusted with the exclusive custody of the hostages.

107. It appears, no doubt, highly improbable either that the hostages could effect an escape from their present situation, or that a plan of that nature would be in contemplation for them. But Tippoo's character warrants suspicions of any kind, and the Governor General has therefore recommended to Sir Charles Oakley that without betraying any signs of distrust, and particularly without putting the boys under the smallest additional restraint, he should keep a very watchful eye upon the conduct of the people belonging to them, and guard even against the possibility of their getting out of our hands before the treaty shall be fully executed.

108. It also appeared very necessary to be cautious that Tippoo should not succeed in creating jealousies of us in the minds of our allies by affecting to give us a preference in the performance of his pecuniary engagements, and, on that account, we have requested that if the second *kist* should be offered to us before the first shall be paid to the Nizam and the Marattas, the Government of Fort St. George will decline to receive it, and desire that the money may remain wherever Tippoo pleases, within his own territories, until they shall have been informed that the first payments had been made good to our Allies. Sir Charles Malet and Sir John Kennaway have been instructed to give the earliest notice of such payments to the Governor of Madras.

109. Translations of letters to the Governor General from the Nabob
 Consn. 30 November, Nos. 8 & 9. Nizam Ally Khan and Meer Allum are recorded on our consultations of the 30th November.

110. We are now to advert to the correspondence with your Resident at Poonah since the date of our last dispatches.

111. The uncertainty, even at this time, of the issue of the contest for
 Consn. 7 September, Nos. 24-25. power in that administration between Nana Furnaveese
 14 Do. No. 7. and Mahajee Sindia induces us merely to notice it, and
 3d October, to refer to our proceedings that contain the intelligence
 No. 2. we have received from Sir Charles Malet concerning it.
 26 Do. Nos. 10-13.
 12th November, No. 15.
 16 Do. No. 22.
 3d December, Nos. 4-5.
 7th Do. No. 17.

112. The correspondence with this Resident in relation to the Treaty of
 Consn. 26th October, No. 13. Guarantee will appear in our consultations noted in the
 Consn. 29 Do. No. 9. margin, and we shall only at present request your
 „ 16 November, No. 22. attention to what is stated upon it in a letter of the
 27th of October from Lord Cornwallis to Sir Charles Malet in the following terms.

"Considering the former relative military force of the Mysore and the Mahratta States, nothing could have been more nugatory and useless than the article of the Treaty of Salbye, by which the Mahrattas, without specifically agreeing to guarantee our possessions, engaged to restrain Hyder Ali and the Nizam from committing hostilities against us; and looking therefore upon that article merely as empty words which could not be supposed to influence the conduct of the Mahrattas, from its having been totally out of their power to perform it, I have never thought it worth while to lay a stress upon it in any conferences or transactions with them.

"With regard to the presumptuous Maratta claim of *chout*, I wish that, as far as relates to ourselves, it should not only be treated with contempt, but that the Marattas should also know that it can never be mentioned by them without exciting our displeasure and indignation; and it may likewise be proper that they should clearly understand that we do not look upon ourselves as, in the most distant degree, engaged to support them in such a claim upon any of the other powers in India.

"If by *kundnee*, which you suppose they may demand from Tippoo, is meant *chout*, what I have said is applicable to it; and, if it is in the sense of any other pecuniary demand, we must not only refuse all countenance to it, but, should an attempt be made to enforce it, we shall be obliged to declare explicitly that after the Treaty of Seringapatam it becomes unjust."

113. You will observe, in Sir Charles Malet's letter to Lord Cornwallis dated the 22d of September, that he requests directions for his guidance in the event of any application (similar to that of Nizam Ally Khan for permission to purchase arms &c. to a considerable extent at Madras) being made by the Mahratta Government, and that he states the consequence to which the permission given to the Nizam is likely to be liable unless a similar indulgence should be given to the Court of Poonah.

114. We are not unapprized of the opinion which we delivered upon this subject, in general, in our letter to your Secret Committee, dated the 6th of November, 1788; but we confess ourselves to be now of opinion that although an export from England for the express purpose will not be necessary as an article of commerce without a particular indent from hence or your other Presidencies, it is advisable for the Company to furnish the neighbouring native powers with certain quantities of fire arms at reasonable prices rather than drive them to the necessity of establishing manufactures of their own; and in the particular instance before us, we thought that, as the Marattas had in their power to procure any quantity of arms and military stores that they want from foreign nations, it was the less worth our while to disappoint them of a supply if they should ask for it.

115. It was therefore mentioned to the Resident at Poonah that if Nana Furnavese should apply for permission to purchase some arms at Bombay, either in consequence of his hearing that the Nizam had obtained a similar indulgence at Madras or for any other reason, we should not be disposed to refuse it, but that, in order to enhance the favor, Sir Charles Malet might agree to refer the application to the Governor General.

116. In a letter from that Resident which is recorded on our consulta-

tions of the 12th November, he mentioned a ceremonial that was expected on the occasion of his requesting the honor of a visit from the Peshwa, which would carry with it on the part of the latter a public instance of the cordiality of the two Governments on the return of Lord Cornwallis to the seat of Government, [to] which it would receive a confirmation from us in Sir Charles Malet's presenting to the Peshwa the handsome and curious presents that he had to offer from your Honorable Court.

117. But it having been intimated to the Resident that some other presents were required which he did not think proper to be made on so particular an occasion, the visit from the Peshwa was waived for the present; but Sir Charles Malet was desired by the *Durbar* to impute the circumstance to the necessity of an attention to forms which they considered as indispensable.

118. We are advised in a letter from Sir Charles Malet to our Secretary that he has lately forwarded to the Bombay Government three copies furnished by Lieutenant Emmitt of his surveys during the late war, and subsequent to it, including a great variety and extent of very interesting geographical matter, rendered still more valuable by the well-known and particular accuracy which the surveys of Lieutenant Emmitt have always exhibited. We imagine that they will be forwarded by the Governor in Council to your Honorable Court.

119. Our proceedings to which we beg leave to refer contain a narrative transmitted by the Resident at Poonah from one William Lee who had escaped from Tippoo's country, and arrived at that place. It conveys intelligence of the detention of some other British subjects in Tippoo's dominions, and the necessary application for their release has been made in consequence to his *vakeels* at Fort St. George.

120. Pursaram Bhow's arrival at Poonah, with three or four thousand horse, and the good reception he met with, are noticed in the Resident's letters that will be found in our consultations of the 23d and 26th of last month; and those of the annexed dates have reference to the disputes between Tucojee Holcar and Sindia, and the actual hostilities that had taken place between the forces of these chiefs in the northern parts of Indostan.

Consn. 7th September, No. 25.
 „ 14th Do. Nos. 6, 7, 9.
 „ 16 December, No. 22.
 „ 23 Do. No. 9.

121. Sir Charles Malet having desired our instructions for his guidance in the case of the Poonah Government's expressing a desire to make a pecuniary acknowledgement to the detachment commanded by Captain Little in approval of its services during the late war, we agreed that, if Sir Charles should receive any money on this account, he should be authorized to issue it to the officers and men of that detachment to be proportionally divided according to the established rules on such occasions.

122. In looking over the correspondence with Sir Charles Malet, we are led to draw your attention to a matter *111* though of per to

Consn. 14 Septem-
ber, No. 7.

that gentleman, being connected with the reward bestowed upon him by the King for his official conduct, may be properly brought before you in a public address. We shall submit it in the forms in which his application to Lord Cornwallis is expressed.

"I lose not the earliest opportunity of Your Lordship's return to comparative leisure to introduce a subject which though personal originates in a public act of royal favor, the value of which has been greatly enhanced by the liberal munificence of our honorable employers. I scarce need to remind Your Lordship that I allude to the dignity of baronetage lately conferred on me by our gracious sovereign and relieved from all expence to me by the generosity of the Honorable the Court of Directors, as communicated to me in Mr. Sub Secretary Fombelle's letter of 5th October, 1791.

"Penetrated with respect and gratitude for so honorable a mark of the notice of my sovereign, and the approbation of my employers, I should not have delayed a moment to make the acknowledgements due to the occasion, had not circumstances connected with it forced me reluctantly to defer my thanks till the season of Your Lordship's leisure might enable me to accompany them with a representation of my grounds to hope, that, by the same royal favor, and the same honorable patronage, by which I have been thought worthy the distinction of a new title of baronetage, I shall not be deprived of the rank of my ancient claim to that dignity, derived from the fiat of Charles 2d, A.D. 166^a,¹² granted to my ancestor, Sir Thomas Malet Knt., and which it ever was my intention, in the event of my pursuits in this country proving successful, to have taken up, though by family circumstances, which it is unnecessary to detail, it has hitherto been suffered to lie dormant.

"Permit me then, My Lord, to request that when through the channel of your Board my thanks are transmitted to the Honorable the Court of Directors, and through them to His Majesty's Ministry, they may be accompanied with my humble solicitation that by having been deemed worthy of personal distinction I may not be deprived of hereditary precedence, and I cannot entertain a doubt, but that on my pretensions being made known to our gracious sovereign, his royal equity will be exercised to prevent my losing ancient rank by what he has been graciously pleased to confer as the reward of recent desert."

123. We beg leave to make it our request that the wish expressed by Sir Charles Warre Malet may be recommended, through your Honorable Court, to the favorable consideration of His Majesty's Ministers, to be laid before the King.

Upper Provinces.

124. The dissensions which we have noticed as having proceeded to actual hostilities between the troops of Sindia and of Tuckoojee Holcar in the northern part of Hindostan (or rather the opposition on the part of Tuckoojee) are supposed to be a consequence of a plan formed at Poona to check the power

Consn. 3d October,
No. 4.

of Sindia and reduce him to a condition more compatible with his obligations to the state. The action that happened between the detachments of the two chiefs is mentioned in a paper of intelligence, which you will find recorded in our proceedings of the 21st ultimo.

Consn. 2d November,
No. 26.

125. Our latest information from Major Palmer on the subject of these disputes is expressed as follows:

"Tokojec Holkar, ever since his route, has been encamped on the southern bank of the Chumbil, about fourteen coss from Kotah, where he has not been pursued by Gopul Bhow. He does not appear to be making any efforts at Indour to recover his station, or to make further resistance in Indostan. Probably he is aware that the Poonah *Durbar* intends to make him an instrument of their designs against Sindia at his own expence, and already wishes for a reconciliation, which I understand he may obtain on returning to the situation in which Sindia parted with him.

"The inhabitants of this defenceless town¹³ have been much alarmed, lest Holcar should revenge himself upon it for the loss and disgrace which he has suffered from Gopaul Bhow. But whether he has been afraid of retaliation on his own possessions in the province, or by whatever other motives he may have been restrained, no attempt has been made, or appears to be intended. Indeed I hear that Alea Bhye [Ahalya Bai] has strictly enjoined her people to refrain from all injury or offence to those of Sindia."

126. We think it proper to inform you, in addition to the intelligence conveyed to you in our letter by the *Ganges*, relative to the *phermaun &c.* from Shaw Allum to the Peshwa for the office of *Vakeel ul Mutluck*, and the letter said to have been written to him and to Sindia by the Shaw concerning the tribute from Bengal, that it appears from the inquiries of Major Palmer's agent at the King's *Durbar* that a letter was actually written, as we were advised was the case, by His Majesty to Sindia, and was obtained by Shah Nizam ul Deen, Sindia's *vakeel* at Delhi, but whether by the direction of his principal, or at his own instance, has not been ascertained. Shah Nizam

Consn. 19 October,
No. 2.

ul Deen is represented as a man of an intriguing and assuming character, who makes what use he pleases of the King's name and authority.

127. You will observe in our proceedings of the annexed date the answer of Mahajee Sindia to the representations made to him by Major Palmer, as noticed in our advices by the *Ganges*, in consequence of directions from the Governor General, of the various causes of complaint which have been given to us by the conduct of persons in authority under him or dependant upon him.

Consn. 2d November,
No. 33.

128. Major Palmer is satisfied, from the result of such inquiries as he had frequent occasion to make into the irregular proceedings of Sindia and his officers with respect to our Government, that they have generally arisen from misunderstanding or inadvertance; and that he himself was sincerely disposed to remedy or prevent them, and maintain the most conciliatory and friendly intercourse and connection with the Company and British nation; and it is probable, your Resident observes, that he was never more intent upon adhering to this

Consn. 29th October,
No. 10.

conduct than at present, when his affairs are so critically situated, both in Hindostan and Deccan.

129. Sindia, in his answer to Major Palmer's representation, said that he had instructed Bhow Bucksey to write to the *vakeels* (meaning those at Benares) in the Gurramundella cause not to lose sight of vigilance and care and a due respect for the Government during the controversy in that cause, and he proposed that Major Palmer and the Bhow should consult together, and do what may be necessary in the business.

130. We have now only to inform you hereupon that the Resident at Benares having stated the long confinement of Gowndee Roy, and the more recent imprisonment of Ram Gour Gosayne, at the instance of the agents of Bhow Bucksey on the part of Mahajee Sindia, we directed that, as no claim had been, or was likely to be, substantiated against these persons, and the Bhow Bucksey had lately recalled his agents from Benares, so that the general subject was left with Major Palmer for such adjustment as might be necessary, the acting Resident should call Goundy Roy and Ram Gour Gosayne before him, and having caused them to enter into a written engagement or *mutchlacka* (without however requiring from them bail or further security) promising not to depart for six months ensuing out of the Zemindary of Benares, without his permission, should thereon release them.

131. The acting Resident was also desired to remove any Court or other peons who might still be stationed over the house of Achul Thoomor¹⁴, the aunt of Goundee Roy, and to allow her to remain therein unmolested and without restraint.

132. As Jugoly Ditchit and Bheely Miser, the two Brahmins who, as connections of Achul Thoomor, appeared to be involved in this prosecution, had been released on giving bail, we desired it might be signified to them that security for their appearance should expire and be no longer binding than for the further term of six months, in like manner as had been ordered in the cases of Gowndee Roy and Ram Gour, after which all the parties are to be at liberty either to depart or to continue their abode in Benares as they may think proper.

133. A copy of these instructions was sent to Major Palmer; and we have been advised by the acting Resident at Benares that he has carried them into effect.

134. You will observe in our proceedings of the annexed dates that the annual report of Temoor Shah's intending an expedition into Hindostan has not been omitted this year. It was rumoured that he was to be accompanied by the Prince Meerza Ahsun Buckt, who wrote, or was said to have written, to the Governor General and the Nabob Vizier. Translation of his *shokas*, either real or forged, are recorded on our consultation of the 12th of November.

Consn. 16th September, Nos. 15-16.
3d October, Nos. 20-21.

Consn. 12 November, Nos. 19-20.

135. We think it proper to acquaint you that the Vizier has consented to the Prince Meerza Hodjee's¹⁵ remaining at Benares, and has given authority for the Resident's paying him from the 1st of September the allowance of 4,000 rupees a month which he enjoyed, while at Lucknow, as a sharer in the provision

Consn. 12 August.
Do. 24 August,
No. 23.

made by His Excellency's bounty for the family of the late Prince Jehander Shah.

136. The Nabob having made his usual application for a detachment of two battalions of native infantry, with a proportion of artillery, to proceed this season to Anoopshire, the necessary orders were given in compliance with it.
 Consn. 19 October, No. 4.
137. You will observe in our proceedings of the annexed dates a letter from Mr. Ives, with another from the Nabob Mohaubut Khan, son of the late Haufiz Rahmut, complaining of some indignities that he suffered from the Vizier's people, the Governor General's reply to the Nabob's representation, and a letter from the Persian Translator to the Resident at Lucknow containing His Lordship's instructions relative to it.
 Consn. 29 October, No. 12.
 „ 30 November, No. 40.
138. The same letter from Mr. Cherry has reference also to an application, recorded on our proceedings of the 30th ultimo, from the sister of Fyzeulla Khan concerning some villages in her *jaghier* that had been attacked by the Vizier's officers.
 Consn. 30 November, Nos. 39-42.
139. In our letter dated the 14th of October, and transmitted by the *Europa*, we advised you of the resolution we had passed to send a deputation to the Rajah of Napaul. The papers that have been since laid before us on the subject are recorded on our proceedings of the annexed dates. You will observe that a pacification has taken place between the Rajah and the Chinese and that Captain Kirkpatrick's procedure upon the duties assigned to him is suspended, for the present, at the Rajah's request.
 Consn. 17 October No. 9.
 „ 22nd November, Nos. 19, 22 & 23.
 „ 2 November Nos. 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 31A.
 „ 30th November, Nos. 32, 32A, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38.
140. We have also to refer to our consultations that relate to the deputation of Captain Welsh to Assam. Copies of the papers that are not upon the records transmitted by this dispatch will be sent numbers in the packet, with a copy of Lord Cornwallis's letter to Captain Welsh, dated the 26 of November.
 Consn. 10th September, Nos. 53-54.
 „ 19 Do. Nos. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.
 „ 3d October, Nos. 18-19.
 „ 22d Do. Nos. 20-21.
 „ 26th Do. Nos. 17-18.
 „ 19th November, No. 5.
 „ 23d Do. Nos. 14, 15, 16.
 „ 26 Do. Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9.
 „ 30th Do. Nos. 30, 31.

Miscellanea.

141. We mentioned in our letter, dated the 3d of September, and sent by the *Ganges*, that at Balasore the *Phousdar*, who affected to hold his station independent of the *Naib* of Cuttack, and in defiance of his remonstrances, had

committed acts of insult towards people under the protection of your Resident that made it necessary to order a force of a few companies of sepoys to restrain their disorderly behaviour. The Governor General's proposition to this effect, and the papers that have been since laid before us on the subject, are entered on our proceedings noted in the margin. The Rajah of Berar having given orders for the removal of the *Phousdar*, Bowanny Doss Chowdry, from his office and appointed another person to it, and satisfactory assurances having been given that the business of the factory should not in future be interrupted, nor those molested who are entitled to protection under it, we gave orders for recalling the detachment excepting a small guard which was to be left there for the present, Rajah Ram Pundit, the *Naib* of Cuttack, being extremely solicitous that the troops should be withdrawn, and Mr. Wilkinson seeing no objection to a compliance with his request. The latter proposed some articles of agreement to be concluded with Rajah Ram Pundit, but we did not think it necessary or proper to authorize any treaty of that kind. Bhowanny Doss Chowdry, the late *Phouzdar* at Balasore, has returned a sum of money (rupees 7,862) which had been extorted by the Mahratta officers from the merchants and others residing under the protection of your factory.

142. Upon our complaint, advised in the 42d paragraph of our General Letter by the *Ganges*, against the Zemindars of Nowagaddah and Bairapoor on the coast of Coromandel for having given protection to the disaffected zemindars of the Company, and even proceeded so far as to plan an attack on the Zemindar of Calicoote, positive orders were sent by Ragojee Boosla to put a stop to these proceedings.

143. Our proceedings of the 5th ultimo contain a letter from the Chief at Ganjam, with a copy of one he had addressed to the Government of Fort St. George, representing that upon his sending a guard to receive charge of one Balaram Martah, a principal partizan of Sanadeo, a refractory zemindar in the Ganjam District, it was attacked on its return with the prisoner about 14 miles from Cuttack, and being surprized the prisoner was rescued, and two sepoys were killed and four wounded. Rajah Ram Pundit professed a total ignorance of the persons who committed this violence, and a disposition to furnish them on discovery. It was supposed that the rescue of Balaram Martah was effected by peons in the service of Vencotah Kistmah Rause, who commands the military establishment of the Cuttack Province, in which a brother of the prisoner served, and that brother is said to have planned and conducted the attack. The affair was stated to Rajah Ram Pundit, who asserts in a letter to Lord Cornwallis that he is now employed with a force to chastize the man who is justly complained of for having furnished the peons that opposed the Ganjam party.

144. There being no further occasion for the continuance of the escort at

Nagpore that was sent there with the late Mr. Forster, we have requested the Commander in Chief to give the necessary orders for recalling it.

145. On the 24th of October we received a letter from Lieutenant Colonel Cockerell, advising us of the arrival of the detachment under his command at Nellore on the 5th of that month, and that he had been informed by the Madras Government of our sanction that the troops should support the Chief and Council at Vizagapatam in certain requisitions intended to be made of the Zemindar of Vizagapatam. In a subsequent letter dated Consn. 26th October, the 28 ultimo, 15 miles west of Vizagapatam, the Colonel No. 6. informed us that Rajah Viziam Rauze had completed the full payment of the arrear of his past year's subsidy to the satisfaction of the Chief and Council at Vizagapatam, that the only remaining object in requisition from the Rajah was an arrangement for the regular discharge of his *kists* in future, and that on this subject the Council had suggested certain propositions for his concurrence. We imagine that the vicinity of the detachment has assisted to carry this point, and that there will be no hindrance to the arrival of the troops on the southern frontier of the Cuttack Province before the end of the present month.

146. Major MacDonald, an officer in the employ of the Nabob of the Carnatic, has made a voluntary offer of his services to proceed to Europe by way of Egypt with a view of obtaining information respecting the means of securing a communication by the Red Sea for our messengers and dispatches, and of endeavouring to make other observations that may tend to promote the public interests. We could not but applaud the zeal which seemed to actuate Major MacDonald in this pursuit, and we have requested the Madras Government to advance to him the sum of £900 on his lodging Company's paper to that amount in their treasury as a security for the repayment of the money, if the issue of his enquiries should not, in your opinion, give him a claim to be indemnified for the expences of his journey.

Fort William,
14th December, 1792.

We have the honor to be,
Honorable Sirs,

Your &c.

(Per Pitt.)

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 29 JANUARY 1793

Chastisement of the Palegar of Sivagiri—Company management of Tanjore to continue in view of the Raja's incompetence—Raja of Travancore's violent dislike of the Resident—Agreement entered into with the Raja of Kolhapur: the Raja's promise to pay compensation for losses arising from piracy and to permit the establishment of factories in his dominion—Increasing maladministration of Oudh: harsh treatment of the family of Haidar Beg Khan.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Your ship *Melville Castle* being under dispatch to Europe, we have the honor to transmit to you by that conveyance a copy of our letter dated the 14 of December, 1792, and forwarded by the *Pitt*¹ our proceedings for the month of December last with our index and the other papers mentioned in the list of the packets.

*Fort St. George and Bombay, the Nabob Nizam Ally Khan
and Tippoo Sultaun.*

2. In continuation of our advices by the *Pitt* as far as regarded the duty assigned by the Government of Madras to Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell, we beg leave to refer you to our consultation of the annexed date, in which you will observe a letter from Fort St. George acquainting us with the result of the inquiry made by that officer into the conduct of the Polygar of Shevegherry in relation to the attack of Shatoor². We were furnished with an extract from the minutes of the Government containing the proceedings of Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell and their resolutions thereon and were informed that the Polygar was then in confinement at Shevegherry, where he would remain until they received our opinion on his case.

Consn. 11 January,
Nos. 1, 2, 3.

3. Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell had also made inquiry into the disputed claims among the polygars; and in the management of that business, he had paid so much attention to the principles of justice and the preservation of future tranquility in the district, that the Government at Madras had approved and confirmed all his recommendations.

4. The fairness of their conduct to the Tinevelly polygars in general, and to the Shevegherry Polygar in particular, at the same time that it reflects great honor on your Government, will no doubt be attended with the happiest effects, and tend to insure the future peace of the southern country by impressing the minds of its turbulent inhabitants with a respect for the favor of the Company and confidence in their justice.

5. We heartily joined in the commendations which the Madras Government bestowed on Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell, and we requested that they would convey our warmest acknowledgements to that officer for the equitable and honorable line which he had uniformly pursued in the execution of the troublesome and delicate service on which he had been employed.

6. It appeared to us that the full and impartial investigation which we instituted placed the whole behaviour of the Shevegherry Polygar in a much less guilty light than it seemed to merit from the first reports that had been received of it; and although he was certainly very reprehensible for resisting and firing upon the Company's troops, yet he stood in our judgement clearly acquitted not only of the murder of Shatoor Polygar but also of the attack

upon his *pollum*, which was made without his consent, or even his knowledge ; and we thought that the appearance of warlike preparation on his part, previous to that event, was accounted for, and in some degree justified by, the discovery which he had made of the conspiracy of the Shatoor Polygar and others against his life.

7. We were therefore of opinion that the Shevegherry Polygar should after receiving a severe admonition be restored to his *pollum*, and that both the Shevegherry and Shatoor *Pollums* should be laid open ; and we recommended that the measure of opening the *pollums* should be invariably adopted whenever the polygars should have been guilty of any offence towards Government, or of any outrage or violence towards each other.

8. We also entirely approved of the arrangement made at Madras relative to the several villages that were mentioned in Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell's letter of the 3d ultimo.

9. Translations of two letters that have been received by Lord Cornwallis from the Nabob Walaw Jah since our last dispatches are recorded on the proceedings of the 4 and 11 instant. The former
 Consn. 4 January, Nos. 1, 2 & 5. relates to the punctual payment of His Highness's *kist*
 11 Do. Nos. 8, of one lack of star *pagodas* due on the 1 of December,
 9 & 10. also to orders that have been given by the Nabob to provide goods in the Nellore District and at Arnee to the amount of 12,000 *pagodas*, as well as to some exactions of duties in Nellore ; and the latter concerns His Highness's right to immediate possession of the Shevegherry *Pollam* after its reduction by the Company's troops. His Highness desisted from the provision of goods at Arnee and the exactions at Nellore, on the representation of the Madras Government ; and his claim upon the *pollam* was decided by the opinion which we gave in favour of the restoration of the Polygar.

10. Our proceedings of the 21st ultimo contain a copy of a letter, dated the 23d of the month preceding, from Major Dalrymple at Dindigal to the Secretary at Fort St. George, and of declarations
 Consn. 21 December, Nos. 3, 4, 5. which had been taken relative to the plunder of the Hanamantali Cotta villages by the three *shevegurs* of Vereputchee. The Government of Madras acquainted us that as the measure of laying open the Veereputchee *Pollam* appeared highly expedient, they purposed, as soon as they should have received the further proofs promised by Major Dalrymple, to give the necessary orders for carrying it into execution ; and that in the mean time
 Consn. 31 December, No. 1. the *predani* and the three *shevegurs* were to be kept in confinement. The intention in both respects met with our entire approbation.

11. We beg leave to lay before you, numbers in the packet, copies of the following papers :

two—that were received by Sir Charles Oakely from Golaum Ally Khan, one of Tippoo's *vakeels* at Madras, and entitled, "Copy of an *arsdasht* from Mahomed Hussien Beeturi, *Fouzedar* of Harponhelly" ; also "Translation of a letter from Mahomed Facker-ud-deen, *Aumil* of the

talooks of Arkul Gour and Kootour to the *Assufterun Katcherry* of the Presence³⁷;

translation of a letter written on the subjects of these complaints on the 2d instant to Tippoo's *vakeels* by the Persian Translator; and

translation of a letter received on the 7th instant from Tippoo Sultaun by the Governor General.

12. Your Honorable Court will observe that this letter is in answer to that mentioned in the 63d paragraph of our advices by the *Pitt*, and denies the right of the French to the district claimed by the Governor of Mahe on the Malabar Coast. It likewise relates to talooks yet uncaded to Tippoo by the Nizam and the Peshwa, upon which Lord Cornwallis has written to the Residents at their Courts; about a garrison placed by the Portuguese at Goa in Suddasheoghur, a circumstance with which we have no immediate concern; and it respects the Nizam's interference in Tippoo's claim to *peshcush* from the Nabob of Kurnoul⁴.

13. A copy of the only intelligence from Mysore lately transmitted to us Consn. 11 January, will be sent a number in the packet.
No. 14.

14. You were acquainted in our letter by the *Pitt* (para 51) that we should inform you in our next dispatches of our answer to those from Madras, in which they gave us notice of their intention to delay the execution of the treaty with the Rajah of Tanjore, and the delivery of the Rajah's country to him, until they should receive our further authority for that purpose. It appeared to us that his conduct towards Serfojee and the widows of the late

Consn. 31 December. Rajah, as well as the orders he gave for putting to death the *parcarry* [*pujari*]⁵ on the strange suspicions that he stated, might be, in some measure, attributed to profligacy and barbarity of disposition, but principally to derangement of mind; and under these impressions, we thought that it would, at present, be highly inadvisable to entrust him with the management of so valuable a country, even if the season had not been so far advanced, and he had acceded to the terms of the new agreement proposed to him by the Government of Madras.

15. We therefore approved of their retaining the management of the country of Tanjore in the hands of their officers to the end of the current revenue year, and we observed that before its expiration the Rajah and his advisers would not only have time to reconsider the grounds upon which he refused to agree to the terms of the treaty, but the Government would be able to judge whether he had so far recovered a proper temper of mind as to render it safe, in the event of his acquiescing in the conditions that were offered to him, to put the affairs of his country under his own controul and authority.

16. The humane attention and assistance that Mr. Swartz had given to the distresses of Serfojee and the widows afforded us the greatest satisfaction; and we requested that our sentiments of his conduct might be communicated to him.

17. We beg leave to refer you to our consultations which contain a letter

dated the 27th of November from Mr. Swartz to the Governor in Council, and a copy of a paper delivered to him by Captain Wallace, Captain Douglas, and Lieutenant Blackburn, also the orders given on the subjects of Mr. Swartz's representations by the Madras Board, with whom we entirely concurred in disapproving the unguarded and improper interference of these officers in matters with which they had no manner of concern⁶.

Consn. 11 January,
No. 6.

18. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that Serfojee and the widows, accompanied by Mr. Swartz, are arrived at Madras.

19. In our consultations of the 17th ultimo you will observe a letter dated the 24th November from the Governor in Council at Fort St. George, with one from the Rajah of Travancore and several papers received through the channels of the Commanding Officers at Palamcotah, complaining against the conduct of Mr. Powney, Resident with the Rajah. It appeared that a serious misunderstanding⁷ had taken place between Mr. Powney and the Rajah, or rather his Minister; and as the Resident had (as he ought to have done) represented the grounds of it, he was informed of the complaints and enjoined to pursue the most moderate and conciliating conduct in all his transactions.

Consn. 17 December,
Nos. 6 to 13.
21 December,
No. 1.

20. As that gentleman had behaved himself generally to the satisfaction of Government, they were disposed to believe that he had not intentionally given umbrage to the Rajah, to whom that circumstance was mentioned, and it was recommended to him to repose in the Resident that confidence which was so essentially necessary to the successful conduct of the important interests entrusted to his care.

21. We shall send, numbers in the packets, copies of Mr. Powney's answers to these complaints, and of the Rajah's reply to the letter from Sir Charles Oakeley, interposing his good offices with a view to a reconciliation between the Rajah and Mr. Powney; but that from the former appearing to preclude all hope of re-establishing any degree of cordiality on his part, it was submitted to us whether it would not be necessary to make some provision for negotiating what is further necessary with respect to the proposed subsidy which he declares himself ready to pay to the Company.

22. We have acquainted the Governor in Council that as the Rajah of Travancore seems to be determined not to transact any business in future with Mr. Powney, we should desire General Abercromby to employ Mr. Boddam, the junior Commissioner from this Government on the Malabar Coast, to negotiate the arrangement of the Rajah's subsidy as soon as that gentleman can be spared from the business of his deputation; and that we should afterwards consider whether it would not be most advisable to place the Residency of Travancore and Cochin under the Government of Bombay.

Consn. 11 January,
No. 7.

23. Advice has been received of the arrival of the Bengal Commissioners to the Malabar Coast on the 14th ultimo at Calicut. General Abercromby acquaints us that they have entered on the business of their mission in

conjunction with the deputies from Bombay, and that there was every reason to believe that their proceedings would be conducted in concert and unanimity with each other.

24. In the 65th paragraph of our dispatch by the *Pitt* we acquainted you that we had referred to the Commodore some correspondence that had passed between the Governor in Council at Bombay and the Captain General at Goa on a point of naval etiquette, occasioned, as the complaint stated, by one of our ships of war preventing a Portuguese frigate from firing a morning and evening gun in Bombay harbour. We have received the Commodore's answer, and beg leave to transmit a copy of it a number in the packet.

25. We have the satisfaction to acquaint you that the claim on the Malwan Rajah is adjusted without proceeding to hostilities. He had deputed an agent to Bombay to settle the disputes with the Company's Government, and an agreement with him had been concluded by the Governor in Council. Consn. 24 December, Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5. Copies of the papers received on this subject from Bombay will be sent numbers in the packet. We entirely approved of the reasons which induced that Government to enter into the convention with, and at the request of, the Rajah of Colapore or Malwan Raja; and we returned a ratified copy of it. Consn. 24 December, No. 6.

26. Our proceedings noted in the margin contain all that has passed in the correspondence with Major Palmer and with Mahajee Consn. 24 December, No. 12. 31 Do. No. 8. 4 January, No. 9. Sindia relative to the dispute at Broach, and the King's *sunnuds* to the Nabob of Surat. Sindea, as was thought not improbable, has consented that the *nuzzeranna*, upon granting those *sunnuds*, should not exceed the amount limited in the first offer of the new Nabob.

27. We have directed the Secretary to transmit with this dispatch (as numbers in the packet) copies of our correspondence with the Residents at Poonah and Hydrabad since the date of our last letter and we beg leave to recommend the same to your perusal.

Upper Provinces.

28. There is nothing of consequence in the letters which have lately been received from the Resident with Sindia that requires to be separately communicated to your Honorable Court. We have already referred to some part of his correspondence and copies of his subsequent letters will be sent numbers in the dispatch.

29. The Governor General received on the 8th instant a letter from Tuckojee Holcar and a translation of others which that chief and his *moonshee* had written to his *vakeel*. We shall send translations of them in the *Melville Castle's* packet.

30. You will receive, enclosed, a translation of a letter addressed by the Nabob Vizier to the Governor General in answer to that written to him by His Lordship upon communicating to His Excellency the satisfaction you had

derived from the proofs he had given of his attachment to the Company at the beginning of the late war.

31. We should have been glad to have found ourselves at liberty to acquaint you that the conduct of the Nabob towards the family of his late Minister, Hyder Beg Khan, had corresponded with the liberality and attention which he appeared to shew towards them soon after Hyder Beg's death; but the contrary has been too apparent. And, as the advice of his Ministers had

Consn. 17 December,
No. 34,
7 January, No.
6.

little effect in discouraging him from making unjust claims on the property, Lord Cornwallis has himself written to the Nabob upon the subject; and the acting Resident has been instructed to acquaint His Excellency, in terms consistent with the delicacy with which His Lordship has thought it proper to address him, that not only a just sense of the long and faithful services of Hyder Beg Khan entitled his family to His Excellency's kindness and protection, but considerations of the discredit which the attachment of their property on the death of their father will bring on His Excellency's character and reputation should be an inducement with him to abstain from measures so incompatible with the dignity of his Government, while prudence and good policy should dictate to him a very different line of conduct, so that so ungenerous a return for the fidelity of Hyder Beg Khan may not have ill consequences on the good conduct and fidelity of others.

32. The representations laid before Lord Cornwallis by Mr. Ives, the Resident at Lucknow, on his arrival at the Presidency, and the messages delivered from the present Ministers of Oude, who had requested leave to come to Calcutta to explain to the Governor General His Excellency's real situation, the want of order in his Government, the inattention (owing to that cause) which was shewn to articles in the commercial treaty with the Company, and particularly their want of influence, although appointed by his own voluntary election, to check the abuses that prevailed in his country, made it absolutely necessary for the Governor General to interfere by remonstrating against His Excellency's general imprudence, and his want of confidence in those in whom he should repose it; and His Lordship accordingly laid before us a minute, of which we enclose a copy, and the draft of letters, of which we entirely approved, to be written to the Nabob and his Ministers on this subject of such general importance to His Excellency's interests and affairs. They have been accompanied by instructions (of which we transmit a copy) to the acting Resident at Lucknow, prescribing the use that is to be made of them.

33. The Nabob Sadut Ally Khan, the Vizier's brother, whose residence has been for some years under the Company's protection at Benares, has made application for leave to purchase a spot of ground, near Calcutta, where he may reside for a part of the year instead of continuing wholly as hitherto at Benares, and, as there was no objection to a compliance with his request, Lord Cornwallis signified his assent to it; but it was thought proper to explain to Sadut Ally that, as the *Adawlets* are established for the prosperity of the country, and the due administration of justice would be impeded by the exemption of any one who resides within your territories from their jurisdiction, it will not be in our power to make any deviation in his favor or that of his attendants from the due obedience paid by the inhabitants in general to the *Adawlets*, and to the other regulations of your Government.

34. You have been acquainted, in our former dispatches, with the circumstances which rendered it expedient to settle the boundaries between the territories of the Nabob Vizier and those of the Zemindary of Benares. The papers which we have noted in the margin have relation to all that has come to us lately upon that subject; and we have determined that the demarkation of the boundary shall be discontinued for the present and until further orders. We are now satisfied with referring you to these papers, as we shall have occasion to take up the subject when the investigation shall have been finally completed.

Consn. 3d December,
Nos. 7 & 8.
17 December,
Nos. 30, 38 &
39.
21 December,
Nos. 15 & 16.
24 December,
Nos. 11 & 12.
31 December,
Nos. 10 & 11.
4 January, 1793,
Nos. 11, 12, 13
& 14.
7 Ditto, Nos. 7
& 8.
14 Do. Nos. 16,
17 & 18.
17 Do. Nos. 6,
7, 8 & 9.
25 January,
1793, Nos. 18,
19 & 20.

35. In our General Letter by the *Pitt*, we advised you of the suspension which circumstances recommended of the deputation of Captain Kirkpatrick to the Rajah of Napaul. Copies of the letters that were subsequently received from the Rajah and from his deputies who are arrived at Patna, as well as of our instructions accommodated to recent circumstances to Captain Kirkpatrick who now proceeds on his embassy, attend you numbers in the packet.

36. We have also the pleasure to lay before you complete copy of our correspondence with Captain Welsh since the date of our advices by the *Pitt*, and we trust that the instructions which we have given to that officer, as well as the conduct which he has pursued in observance of them, will receive your approbation.

Fort William,
the 29th January, 1793.

We have the honor to be &c.

(*Per Melville Castle.*)

19

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 7 MARCH 1793

Court of Directors' confirmation of the gratuity to persons who served in the Third Mysore War.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We propose addressing you at length from this Department by the *Tartar* packet in a few days and have in the mean time to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches by the vessel. They are dated the 19th of September, 1792, and arrived on the 2nd instant.

2. It afforded us the sincerest pleasure to observe the satisfaction you had received from the treaty concluded by Lord Cornwallis at Seringapatam, and His Lordship has desired us to testify to your Honorable Court the high sense he entertains of the honor conferred upon him by your unanimous vote of thanks for the services which he has rendered to the East India Company.

3. We shall immediately notify to the army in general orders the expressions of approbation signified in your advices before us, and the liberal proof which you have been pleased to give of it by confirming the gratuity allotted by Lord Cornwallis to the officers and men who served in the war, and adding to it six months' batta. The statement of the gratuity is preparing, and will be published with the acceptable intelligence of your directions concerning it.

Fort William,
7th March, 1793.

We have &c., &c.

(Per Tartar.)

20

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 18 MAY 1793

The Raja of Vijianagaram to be deprived of his estate—The affairs of the Carnatic Palegars—The Raja of Tanjore to be entrusted with administration—Recall of the Travancore Resident—Presentation to Tipu of the portrait paintings of his sons—The Karnul question—The Nizam's intervention in the Sindia-Peshwa conflicts: his visit to Bidar—Plans to stop piracy on the Malabar Coast—Differences between the Bengal and Bombay Governments regarding (1) Dady Nusserwanji's case and (2) the suspension of duties on grain exported to the Maratha country—The Gaikwad family disputes—The Pant Sachiv affair—Holkar's request for mediation between him and Sindia: reiteration of the policy of non-interference in the relations of the Maratha chieftains inter se—Increasing maladministration of Oudh—The missions to Nepal and Assam.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors for the affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Our advices from this Department by your homeward bound ships of the season 1792-3 were dated the 3d of September, 14th of October, and 14th of December, 1792, the 29th of January and 7th of March following; but, as the last of these letters contained merely an acknowledgement of your despatches by the *Tartar* packet, the narrative which we have now to lay before you will begin with the occurrences that have happened since the departure of the *Melville Castle*¹.

Fort St. George and Bombay, the Nabob Nizam Ally Khan and Tippoo Sultaun.

2. You will be advised by the Government at Fort Saint George that notwithstanding the measures recently adopted by them to enforce

the payment of arrears due to the Company by the Zemindar of Vizianagram,
 Consn. 1st May, fresh cause of complaint has again arisen from the folly
 Nos. 1, 2, 3. and misconduct of Viziam Rauze.

3. The papers laid before us not only shewed the marked disrespect with which the demands of the Company had been treated, but a letter from Viziam Rauze to the Chief at Vizagapatam dated the 30th of March contained an explicit avowal of the employment of his brother Sittaram Rauze in the management of the country in defiance of the most positive orders to the contrary from the Government of Madras.

4. They had therefore no prospect of bringing back Viziam Rauze to a proper sense of his duty while he was indulged in the exercise of his authority, and they saw no remedy for the existing evils short of the sequestration of the zemindary in the event of his refusal to make an adequate assignment of his territory for the discharge of his arrears together with the growing *jumma*.

5. They consequently directed the Board of Revenue to send suitable instructions to the Chief and Council at Vizagapatam, and to make known to the Zemindar that they expected an instant compliance with their orders for securing the just claims of the Company as well as for dismissing Sitaram Rauze from his service. But, as it was very probable, in the present disposition of the Zemindar, that he would not acquiesce in their demands, the Government of Madras requested our sanction to the employment of force, if necessary, to effect a compleat sequestration of his district, and they referred to a letter from your Honorable Court, dated the 19th of September, 1792, in which you expressed the strongest disapprobation of Viziam Rauze's conduct, and desired that, in the event of further disobedience, measures might be taken for procuring ample justice to the Company.

6. We saw no reason to hope for any amendment in the behaviour of the Zemindar of Vizianagram, and therefore authorized the Government of Fort St. George to take such measures as might appear to them necessary for bringing him to a proper sense of his duty, and for procuring ample justice to the Company according to your orders.
 Consn. 3d May, No. 1.

7. In consequence of our instructions notified in the 7th paragraph of our letter to your Honorable Court, dated the 29th of January, the Shevgherry Polygar has been re-established in his *pollam*; Consn. 29th March, No. 10. and, as the several duties entrusted to Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell were fulfilled, he returned to Tanjore.

8. Our proceedings of the annexed date contain a letter from the Government of Fort St. George, enclosing a correspondence with the Nawab Walaw Jaw, in which he declared his intention to employ the troops of the *Circar* in exterminating the Polygars of Moograul, Paukhal, and Pelloor² for committing murders and depredations, and for other stated acts of misconduct, and to demand assistance from the Rajas of Calastry, Vencatagherry, and Bomrauze³ for effecting that purpose.
 Consn. 29th March, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9.

9. Though the polygars abovementioned were dependant on the *jaghires* of Chittoor and Chundergherry, and not among those who paid

tribute immediately to the Company, the Government of Madras did not, on that account, conceive that the Nabob could, consistently with prudence and humanity, proceed to such an extremity with those people, however culpable the behaviour of some of them might have been. It was therefore particularly requested that no movement of troops should be undertaken until a reference had been made to us, and our sentiments received thereupon.

10. We were sorry to observe that the Nabob was so violent in his intentions of chastizing the petty polygars against whom their neighbours had brought criminal charges, and that he was so little inclined, as appeared from his correspondence to be the case, to attend to the prudent advice which had been given to him by the Governor of Madras to wait the proposed reference to this Government. We thought that, in disputes amongst polygars, the gross misrepresentation of facts renders it often so difficult to distinguish the most culpable that strong measure should seldom be adopted against any of the parties till a deliberated inquiry had taken place. But, on a supposition that the murders &c. reported to the Nabob had been actually committed without a provocation that could, in any degree, justify or palliate such outrages, we should utterly reprobate the idea of the general extermination of these people as proposed by His Highness, and we were clearly of opinion that the movement of any considerable body of the Nabob's troops, or of polygars, against the people complained of should, if possible, be avoided.

11. We had little doubt that the re-establishment of a small garrison of the Company's troops at Chandergherry would prevent, or greatly restrain, the irregularities of those petty polygars; but, as His Highness shewed so much aversion to that measure, we did not wish it to be pressed upon him unless the necessity should become extremely urgent.

12. We therefore requested, as the only thing to be done at present, that the Government at Madras would communicate our recommendation to His Highness that he would, in the first instance, order an enquiry to be made into circumstances of the complaints that had been preferred to him, and endeavour to bring the real offenders to justice by the means of the troops or peons that are usually stationed in Chittor and Chandergherry; and we were persuaded, should it appear upon investigation that some assistance for that purpose would be indispensibly requisite from the neighbouring polygars who are under the Company's management, that the Government would take every means in their power to prevent the demand of an unreasonable number of men, and to induce His Highness to abstain from all acts of cruelty or unnecessary severity.

13. You will find, recorded in our consultations noted in the margin, references submitted to us, both by the Government at Madras and the Nabob, of some correspondence that had passed between them upon a request made by His Highness that Messrs. Kindersley and Torin, who had been employed by the Company in the collection of the revenues of the Carnatic, and who meant to proceed to England by the ships of the season, might be detained to answer any charges and make good any deficiencies that might

Consn. 8th February,
Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7,
8, 9, 10, 11.

Consn. 15th February,
No. 1.

Consn. 1st March,
Nos. 1, 2, 3.

Consn. 22d March,
Nos. 10, 11.

arise upon an examination of the accounts of the management of the country in which they were employed. He also requested that he might be immediately furnished with copies of the daily journal accounts kept by the different Collectors, and the particulars of their receipts and disbursements, as he had been told that some extraordinary charges had been made, and large sums had been brought forward as expended in the repairs of tanks, water-courses &c*a*. which his people could not anywhere discover to have taken place.

14. We must refer to the proceedings for the answers sent by the Government of Madras to these requests. From the favorable accounts that we had heard of several of the gentlemen who were employed in the management of the revenues of the Carnatic during the last war, we were inclined to believe that their conduct in it would bear the strictest investigation. But as it was of great consequence that His Highness should not have even the least plausible pretext to complain that any information in the power of your servants to give in which his pecuniary interests were concerned had been withheld from him, we recommended that the Governor in Council should furnish him, upon his requisition, with copies of all the accounts that had been delivered to the Board of Revenue by the late Collectors employed in the different districts of His Highness's country, and that might have been kept by them in their *mofussil cutcherries*, or permit His Highness's officers to take copies of all those papers, if it should prove too laborious a work to be executed by the revenue officers of the Madras Government.

15. Sir Charles Oakeley has observed to Lord Cornwallis that free access to the revenue records of the Government had been early allowed to the Nabob, with permission to take copies of such accounts as he chose; and that His Highness had lately availed himself of the offer by deputing Mr. Binney, his European Secretary, with some of the *Durbar muttedies* to inspect the several details⁴ in the Revenue Office. Sir Charles Oakeley said that his objection went only to furnishing the Nabob with partial and imperfect documents called for under equivocal titles, and expressly required for no other purpose than to supply matter of complaint against the Collectors. On a point so delicate and important, he considered it to be more fair and equitable to all parties to open the materials in the possession of the Government to the view of the Nabob's servants, and to leave it to them to select whatever they might think proper.

16. You will probably receive from the Madras Government a statement showing the settlements for the rents of the Nabob's countries for the *Fussily* years 1200 and 1201, together with the net aggregate revenue derived from the date of the assumption to that of the surrender, or of the last collections made which, for the most part, terminated at the latter end of July, 1792.

17. This statement will no doubt afford you much satisfaction, for we agree in opinion with your Governor in Council that, when all the disadvantages which attended the assumption are maturely considered, it cannot be disputed that the revenue actually realized was equal to, if it did not exceed, the most sanguine expectations that could have been formed of it.



Amar Singh, Raja of Tanjore, holding *darbar*

18. In our advices by the *Melville Castle* (paragraphs 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18), we acquainted you with all that had passed in reference to us concerning Consn. 1st Feby. No. Tanjore. What has further occurred on this subject will be found in our proceedings of the annexed dates. We shall transmit to you, numbers in the packet, copies of a Consn. 15th Feby. No. 2. letter dated the 12th of April which the Governor Consn. 18th March No. 4. General has received from Mr. Swartz, and of a letter dated the 24th which has very lately arrived from the Madras Government, referring to us an application from the Rajah of Tanjore to be put in possession of his country at the end of the present *Fussily* year. We shall lay before you our opinion upon the subject by quoting our answer to the Madras Government upon it. It has been as follows:

"Although we have no positive reason at present to entertain a much more favorable opinion of the character of the Rajah of Tanjore than we had when we wrote to you on that subject in December last, yet as we have not heard of any late irregularity in his conduct, we think that, under all the circumstance in which this question is involved, it will be more suitable to our national character to hazard an error on the side of lenity than to expose ourselves to the imputation of having treated him with excessive rigor.

"When the reference was made to us in December last on the Rajah's offer to undertake the management of his country on the terms which he at first rejected, he had just before been guilty of committing several shocking outrages; and, exclusive of all other considerations, if his restoration had immediately succeeded his misdeeds, it might have been doubted whether our Government seriously disapproved of those enormities.

"The Rajah has now for some time felt the most pointed and public marks of our dissatisfaction and of our abhorrence of his conduct; and as the Company, by the terms of the proposed agreement, will be ultimately secured in the receipt of the stipulated revenue, and will also obtain an absolute right of assuming the management of the country whenever the Rajah shall fail in his payments, we recommend that the Rajah's offer to execute the treaty that was proposed to him may now be accepted, and that the management of his country may be restored to him at the conclusion of the current revenue year."

19. In the letter from the Government of Madras referring to us the application of the Rajah of Tanjore, they took notice also of one which had been addressed to them by Colonel Martins, the officer commanding the troops stationed in the Ramnad District, representing the irregular conduct of the Rajah Shaytoo Putty, and the disorder into which the affairs of the district were thrown by his mismanagement. Similar accounts had been received from the Collector stating the character of the Rajah in the most unfavorable light.

20. The Government of Fort Saint George acquainted us that Mootoo Irlah Pittah, the former Minister of Shaytoo Putty, was said to have conducted himself through the whole of his administration with great prudence and discretion that the Rajah at length became jealous of his authority and removed him from his office under a charge of embezzlement which they did not find he had been able to prove; and they observed that the character of this Minister was so well spoken of, it might be advisable

Rajah's proceeding to further acts of extravagance, that Mootoo-Irah Pitta should be restored to the office of *dewan*, and supported in the administration by their authority.

21. Our answer to Madras on this subject is expressed as follows:

"The complaints of Colonel Martins against the Rajah Shaytoo Putty are of too general a nature to admit of our giving any positive opinion respecting them. That he is despotic and that he governs his country very ill, we do not doubt; and we are afraid that the same defects may, with too much truth, be imputed to almost every other polygar in the country. But, although we may lament those evils, we are obliged, at the same time, to recollect that our rights over that description of people are too limited to admit of our applying the means that would be effectual to correct them.

"Under these circumstances we cannot help being of opinion that whilst the utility of the measure might be extremely doubtful, any interference on our part in the appointment of *dewans* or ministers, or in any of their internal arrangements, would not be entirely justifiable; and we think that you will be ever liable to be engaged in polygar wars (which have been always unprofitable and very often unjust) unless you instruct your servants, in the clearest manner, to take no further concern about the polygars than to demand from them their fixed tribute, and to prevent their engaging in warfare amongst themselves or committing any act of contumacy against your Government.

"We not only entirely disapprove of the proposition made by Colonel Martins that a detachment should attend the Collector to Rajah Shaytoo Putty's present place of residence, but also earnestly recommend that although it may be advisable that the troops in the neighbouring stations should be instructed to comply with the requisitions which the Collectors of Polygars' *Peshcush* may be obliged to make for assistance upon any sudden emergency, yet that it should be observed by you, as a general rule, never to put troops under the orders of those Collectors, as we are convinced that, whenever a necessity actually exists for employing a military force, the troops should be commanded by an officer of a respectable character, either in the King's or Company's service, who should act immediately under the direction of your Government."

22. You were advised in our letter by the *Melville Castle* of the differences that had occurred between the Rajah of Travancore (or rather his Minister) and Mr. Powney. Although we saw no reason to be dissatisfied with Mr. Powney's conduct, in general, on his deputation to Travancore, but, on the contrary, have thought on several occasions that he has acted with ability, and shewn much zeal for the public service, yet as those differences had unluckily arisen between him and the Rajah to such a degree that the latter refused positively to transact any business with him, we conceived that Mr. Powney could render no further service in this station, and we therefore recommended his recall.

23. The Presidency of Bombay being in consequence of our late acquisitions more immediately connected than that of Madras with the Rajah of Travancore, we were inclined to think that one of the servants on the Bombay establishment who might be employed in the southern part of the ceded country on the Malabar Coast would have leisure to do all the Company's business with

the Rajah ; but we determined that if General Abercromby, who had been for several months on the spot, should be of a different opinion, the Bombay Government should be authorized to appoint one of their servants to the Residency at Travancore ; and we requested the Governor in Council at Fort St. George to acquaint the Bombay Government as well as ourselves whether any agreement had been concluded with the Rajah for the annual payment of a sum of money to provide for the general defence of his own and the Company's dominions.

24. According to our recommendation the Madras Government have recalled Mr. Powney from Travancore, and communicated to the Governor in Council of Bombay the substance of the proposition made to the Rajah for the annual payment we have mentioned and to which the Rajah had acceded.

25. In consequence of the intimation in our letter of the 10th of January last to the Government of Fort St. George of our intention to employ Mr. Boddam, the junior Commissioner from Bengal on the Malabar Coast, to negotiate the arrangement of the subsidy which the Rajah had agreed to pay to the Company, they advised the Rajah accordingly ; and since that time have had no correspondence with him on the subject.

26. The Government of Madras, thinking it proper that our sanction and concurrence should be obtained to every part of an arrangement so important as that of establishing their frontier to the westward, referred to us a letter from Colonel Brathwaite, their Chief Engineer's report, and their minutes on the subject, and requested our opinion in respect to the forts which it would be most advisable to maintain, and on a proposal of Colonel Brathwaite⁵ for disposing of troops, and detaching part of their artillery to the garrisons in the Baramahal⁶. They had previously directed their Commissary General of Grain and Provisions to lay upon a stock of grain for six months in all the places now occupied on that frontier ; and they have sent orders to the Military Board to complete the provisions and stores for all the forts which appear necessary to be preserved, as well as to cause such repairs as are wanting to be made without loss of time.

27. A copy of the answer which we sent at the recommendation of Lord Cornwallis to this reference from the Madras Government will be transmitted a number in the packet. You will observe that we then took up the question which they laid before us some time ago concerning the best mode of supplying the place of the two battalions lent to the Nizam. Thinking it probable that His Highness would detain these battalions for a long period, and advert-
ing to the considerable and judicious reduction which had been made by the Government of Fort St. George in their revenue troops, and as it appeared, also, that they could have but few native battalions in reserve beyond the number required for the various internal duties under that Presidency, we declared our readiness to sanction their raising two additional battalions, if they should think them necessary, either for their security or for rendering their military force sufficiently respectable; and we requested that, if they should be desirous of the immediate adoption of the measure, they would call on the Commanding Officer of the troops for a plan, to be transmitted to us, of the mode he would recommend for levying and forming such additional force.

28. Our proceedings of the 11th of February contain a translation of a letter dated the 7th of October, 1792, from Sir Charles Oakeley to Tippoo, and of Tippoo's answer on the 21st of the month following. The former was written on the occasion of sending to him the portraits of the two princes; and in the latter he acknowledged the great attention and civilities shewn to his sons by the Governor of Madras. He wrote to Lord Cornwallis, by whose directions the portraits were taken, respecting them, and seemed very sensible of this instance of His Lordship's kindness, which was the more acceptable as the miniatures were very well finished, and the likeness remarkably strong.

29. You will receive from the Government of Fort St. George an abstract *kistbundy* of Captain Read's settlement of the ceded districts under his charge for the present year. We must bear the fullest testimony to the zeal and ability of that officer in the execution of the duties assigned to him, and to the success which has attended his exertions in the assessment and collection of the public revenue.

30. The Governor in Council transmitted to us a copy of a letter dated the 21st of March from the Assay Master at Madras, with accounts shewing the produce in the mint there; of the Mysore coins received from Tippoo Sultaun, also accounts current shewing the loss which had arisen upon the recoinage of this money into the gold and silver currency of the Carnatic. We were also furnished by Mr. Cherry, the Persian Translator, with a copy of a letter to the Paymaster of the army at Seringapatam authorizing him to receive the payments made by Tippoo Sultaun, pursuant to the treaty of peace, at the respective value of each coin as fixed by a committee for the purpose on the spot; and we sent a note of the rates at which the several species of coin were received by the alliance, with a copy of the Madras accounts to the Accountant General and Mint Master at this Presidency, instructing them to report to us thereupon and to state accurately its correspondence as to value and amount with the table of rates settled at Seringapatam.

31. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that the first instalment of the 2nd *kist*, payable by Tippoo according to the Definitive Treaty to the Nizam and the Marattas, has been discharged; and that the 2nd instalment of the same *kist* due to the Company arrived at Kistnagherry on the 18th ultimo. Directions had been given to the Paymaster to take charge of it, and to forward it under an escort to Madras. A translation of Tippoo Sultaun's letter to the Governor General notifying the dispatch of this treasure will be sent a number in the packet with a copy of His Lordship's answer to it.

32. Tippoo's *vakeels* at Fort St. George had represented to Sir Charles Oakeley by their master's orders that the Peshwa's officers delayed giving a receipt for the *kist* which was paid some months ago; that the one for the Nizam had been for a long time on the frontier and that delays similar to that which was imputed to the Marattas as to granting the receipt were chargeable also to the officers of His Highness; to prevent which, in future, Tippoo

Sultaun was desirous that the Company should receive the *kists* of the alliance at Kistnagherry, and that through them the *kists* for the Nizam and the Peshwa might be paid to those powers. Sir Charles Oakeley discouraged very properly any expectation of our acceding to the proposition; but that any such reasonable cause of complaint as that made by Tippoo might be obviated in future, your Residents at Poonah and Hydrabad have been instructed to urge the immediate delivery of the receipts on the payment of the money to the officers of the two Governments; and to meet the wishes of Tippoo as far as could properly be done, Lord Cornwallis has declared, through the Persian Translator to the *vakeels*, that His Lordship will consider the payments to the Nizam and Marattas as having been made, whenever he receives advices from Sir Charles Malet and Sir John Kennaway that the officers of the two Governments have received the money, although formal receipts should not have been granted for it; and a desire has been expressed to the *vakeels* that they would request their master to send intimation to Sir Charles Malet and Sir John Kennaway, when the money arrives near the borders of the two countries, and is ready to proceed. A copy of Mr. Cherry's letter to the *vakeels* on this occasion will be forwarded a number in the packet.

33. The intelligence from the Mysore country, as transmitted from time to time to the Government at Madras, since our last advices, will be found on our proceedings of the annexed dates.

Consn. 1st March, No. 6.
22d „ No. 3.
27 „ No. 2.

34. Our consultations of the 11th of February contain a letter addressed to us by Lieutenant Colebrooke, Assistant to the Surveyor General, with a map, which was sent to you in the *Belmont's* packet, of such parts of the Mysore as were traversed by the army under Lord Cornwallis's command during the campaigns of 1791 and 1792, likewise of a part of the country between Vellore and the *Ghauts*. Lieutenant Colebrooke's letter was accompanied by a paper of astronomical observations, and a short treatise upon the climate, topography, and history of Mysore. We shall transmit copies of them in the *Tartar's* packet. He had great merit in the execution of the chart, and we granted him a gratuity of six thousand rupees for the trouble he had in preparing it, and as a compensation for the extra expences he had incurred in making the surveys that were necessary for the purpose.

35. In addition to the papers already mentioned as having been furnished by Lieutenant Colebrooke, we transmit to you a roll which he has just sent to us containing Major Kyd's survey from Seringapatam through the Coorga country to the sea, and from thence to Cochin and other places, and a copy of his letter that came with it.

36. Some correspondence, not already noticed, which has passed since the date of our dispatches by the *Melville Castle* with Tippoo Sultaun and his *vakeels* will be found on our consultations of the annexed dates.

Consn. 18th February, Nos. 2-2A.
Consn. 22d March, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
Consn. 5th April, No. 2.

37. Besides what is mentioned therein relative to boundary disputes, you

will observe the stress laid on repeated informations sent to us, of European and other prisoners still in Tippoo's country and his disregard of that part of the treaty which stipulated for their immediate release. The circumstances are of such a nature as not to admit of direct and positive proof of their existence; but, as we are made acquainted with them, they are represented to his *vakeels*, who appear to be men well disposed to the continuance of friendship between the two States; and as the hostages are liable to detention at Madras until every part of the treaty shall have been fulfilled, there is yet a forcible obligation upon Tippoo Sultaun that may ensure the ultimate deliverance of the prisoners yet confined in Mysore.

38. A claim made on the part of Nizam Ally Khan (and in the prosecution of it he has shewn the most determined perseverance) has given cause to more discussion in our correspondence with Hyderabad than any other subject. Kernoull, a district situated on the borders of His Highness's country, surrounded to the south by the district of Gooty and well calculated to form a frontier on the side next to Mysore, was several years ago subdued by Hyder Ally but surrendered to its late Nabob Rhunmust Khan on condition of his paying an annual stipulated *peshcush*. It is to be observed that, either from inability to oppose his power, or some other cause, no opposition was then or subsequently made by the Nizam to this exaction on the part of Hyder or his son.

39. At the conclusion of the late war, and previous to signing the Treaty of Seringapatam, Tippoo inserted Kernoul in the schedule of his dominions. It was objected on the part of the Nizam that Tippoo had no right to that country, but the objection, [sic] notwithstanding the apparent necessity for its being then pressed by His Highness's Minister, and although a decision on the subject was earnestly desired by the sons of the late Nabob Runmust Khan, yet (for what reasons we are unable to judge) no explicit declaration then took place as to the right of the Nizam in opposition to the claim of Tippoo Sultaun.

Consn. 27th June, 1792, No. 1.
 13th July, No. 6.
 3d August, Nos. 10, 11, 12, 13.
 6th Do. No. 20B.
 10th Do. Nos. 7, 8 & 9.
 13th Do. Nos. 6-7.
 7th September, Nos. 18-19.
 Do. Nos. 21-21A.
 17th December, No. 24.
 21st, No. 8.
 28, Nos. 2 & 5.
 31st, Nos. 5-6.
 25th January, No. 5.
 8th February, Nos. 15-16.
 11 Do. No. 5.
 18 March, No. 5.
 27th Do. Nos. 6-9.
 1st April, No. 6.
 24th Do. No. 6.
 26th Do. Nos. 4, 9, 11, 14.
 12th Do. No. 9.

40. The late Nabob of Kurnoull considered himself liable to the payment

of the annual tribute, as it had been previously paid, to the Mysore Government, and recommended the discharge of it to his son and successor. Much allowance was to be made for the anxiety shewn by the Nizam to obtain Kernoull as a frontier on that side of his dominions; and to this anxiety we must attribute his desire, on the death of the late Runmust Khan, to support another of his sons whose conduct would accord more with His Highness's wishes than that of the immediate successor to the Government of the district. He prepared to support the object of his choice with an armed force, when the *vakeels* of Tippoo requested the mediation of the allied powers in requiring the Nizam to desist from proceedings which must infallibly tend to destroy the friendship so recently established between His Highness and their master.

41. With this equitable request we could have no objection to comply, especially as it was our clear opinion that the Nizam had in fact, though perhaps not in form, suffered his title of lord paramount of Kernoull to be superseded, and that he must be considered to have given it up when he ceased to protect his feudatory against the usurpations of Hyder Ally, as well as when the rights of Tippoo were asserted previous to the execution of the Treaty of Seringapatam; nor could we reconcile the discordant claims of a demand for tribute by Tippoo with that of a paramount right in Nizam Ally Khan.

42. Under this impression, we gave it as our decided opinion to His Highness that he should abstain from any interference in the Government of Kernoull so far as it affected the right of Tippoo to compel the Nabob to pay tribute, a right which had been exercised at different times for upwards of twenty years, both by Hyder and his son, previous to the last war.

43. His Highness still persisting to urge his claim, we did not hesitate in declaring to him that should his interference (as appeared to us might be the case) involve serious consequences, they must fall on the Hyderabad Government alone, as no engagement existed by virtue of which the Company could be induced, nor did we know of any between His Highness and the Peshwah that could warrant the Maratta State, to unite with him in the support of such measures.

44. The Nizam having thus failed in obtaining our sanction for his exercising that right over Kernoull which was the object of his wish has determined to depute a *vakeel* to Fort St. George to negotiate with those of Tippoo on the subject.

45. We have transmitted to the Madras Government copies of the material parts of the correspondence with the Nizam, the Minister, and Sir John Kennaway upon it, and cautioned them against taking any part or concern whatever in the negotiation. His Highness will thus see how much we disapprove of his conduct, and how positively we are determined against affording him any countenance or support in the progress of the business.

46. Notwithstanding what was mentioned in our advices of the 14th of December, 1792, relative to the Treaty of Guarantee proposed to be entered

into between the Nizam, the Peshwa, and the Company, as there was no great probability of an early termination of the contentions at Poonah, we mean those between Nana and Sindia, and that your Residents at that Court and at Hydrabad might be sufficiently prepared to enter on the business of the treaty when a proper occasion, offered, we have transmitted to them a draft of the stipulations that appear to us necessary; and we enclose a copy of it a number in this dispatch. We beg leave to refer you to the subsequent correspondence of the Residents on the subject of it, by which you will observe that the unsettled state of affairs at Poonah is the principal cause of the delay in proceeding upon it, the Nizam having expressed his approbation of it to your Resident at his Court.

47. It having appeared to us that the Nizam's Ministers had taken a part in the contest at the Court of Poonah, by no means likely to improve the good understanding that it was so desirable should subsist between the two States, we instructed Sir John Kennaway to represent to him, in terms sufficiently explicit but free of anything that could occasion the least offence at our interference, the ill consequences that must inevitably follow so incautious a line of conduct, and the tendency it would have to create dissensions between his master and the Peshwa. The Minister's answer to this friendly representation gives us reason to suppose he will attend to it, but we are not quite certain that his professions are sincere.

48. A resolution taken by the Nizam at the instance of the Minister to proceed to Bider, which is close to the Marratta frontier, has occasioned some jealousy and displeasure on the part of Nana Furnaveese. The object of this journey has all along been stated to be a change of air; but as the place is remarkable for its insalubrity, such a pretext was little to be trusted to: the ambition of Azeem ul Omrah, the declining state of his master's health, his close correspondence with some of the chiefs at Poonah, the circumstance of his having supplied Sindia with large sums of money, united in leading us to draw unfavourable conclusions from the march to Bider.

49. We were next informed that His Highness had it in contemplation to proceed in person to Poonah for the purpose of mediating between Sindia and the Ministry at that *Durbar*.

50. Sir John Kennaway acquainted us that, many months ago, upon perceiving the close intercourse that was forming between Azeem ul Omrah and Sindia to the prejudice of Nana Furnaveese, which happened previous to Meer Allum's joining the army under Lord Cornwallis, being aware of the pacific views of our Government, and how essential the continuance of the present Poonah Minister in power might be to their success, he had taken frequent opportunities, in his confidential conversations with Meer Allum as well as with Azim ul Omrah himself, of pointing out to them, as far as was consistent with the caution and delicacy necessary to be observed on such a subject with regard to Scindia, how much it imported the prosperity of the Nizam's

Government to cultivate and improve a good understanding with Nana Furnaveese, and how destructive a rupture with him might prove to His Highness's affairs; but that these representations on the part of the Resident had little effect on Azim ul Omrah, who, influenced by his natural impetuosity, and not duly weighing the consequences his measures might lead to, appeared to have urged on, and to be still provoking, by his connections with Scindia, the rupture which Sir John Kennaway wished him to avoid. The Resident therefore recommended that he should be authorized to state to the Minister, in a more decided tone, and on our behalf, the impolicy of his proceedings, and to apprise him how impossible it would be, in any dispute with the Marrattas hereafter, that we could interfere with our good offices in the Nizam's favor, subsequent to the wanton provocation which his conduct would have given to the Court of Poonah.

51. We entirely approved of the sentiments thus expressed by Sir John Kennaway, and desired they might be conveyed to the Minister, in as firm language, but in terms as little exceptionable, as the nature of the business would admit, adding, in the event of Azim ul Omrah's persevering in his intention to embark his master in so weak and dangerous an enterprize, that Sir John Kennaway was instructed by us to declare that we considered it as totally unjustifiable in any member of the alliance to interfere in the internal disputes and dissensions that might unfortunately prevail either at the *Durbars*, or amongst the chiefs of the other States, unless explicitly requested by all the contending parties to endeavor to compromise their differences by a friendly mediation, that, such being our sentiments, we could not suffer any part of the detachment of your troops to accompany him, and that neither Sir John Kennaway, nor any gentleman belonging to the Residency, could enter the Maratta territories, without receiving a specific invitation from the Peshwah and his Ministers.

52. The Minister, after receiving Sir John Kennaway's answer to the message which occasioned the instructions we have noticed in the above paragraph, demanded of Sindea's *vakeel* whether his master could not procure from the Peshwa an invitation to Nizam Ally Khan to proceed to Poonah for the purpose of interfering in the disputes among the Ministers; but the *vakeel* answered it was impossible.

53. We shall transmit in the packet a copy of a letter dated the 16th of April, which has been received from Sir John Kennaway, representing what had passed between him and the Minister upon advice which he has communicated to him from Lord Cornwallis as to the impropriety of his taking any part in the animosities subsisting between Nana Furnaveese and Sindea at Poonah. You will observe that he entered a good deal into his master's conduct, and explanation of his own, which, however, was but indifferently effected, and that he gave the Resident some reason to believe that he would refrain from any improper interference upon this subject in future.

54. The Nizam marched for Bider on the 16th ultimo. The Minister has assured Sir John Kennaway that the present movement should terminate in its professed object, a change of air; and he added it was possibly that His Highness might soon be tired of his residence at Bider, which he thought likely to be the case, in which event he would return to Hyderabad, or try a further change at Gulberga.

55. It seems that the Nizam had proposed to Nana Furnaveese that he should visit Poonah for the purpose of being present at the Peshwah's nuptials; but that these having been concluded before an answer could be received, His Highness had expressed a wish that the ceremony might be repeated, which was declined as the season propitious for it had elapsed.

56. We shall transmit you, numbers in the packet, a copy of the last letter and its enclosures which we have received from Sir John Kennaway mentioning, among other matters, that he should join the Nizam, who was gone to Bider. There was also a friendly letter from His Highness to Nana Furnaveese and Hurry Punt Furkia.

57. We think it proper to inform you that in the month of February last, upon dispatches being received from Sir John Kennaway that gave us reason to apprehend, from alarming symptoms of the return of the Nizam's disorder, mentioned in our advices of the last season, that his life could not be of long duration, the instructions, of which we enclose a copy, were sent by Lord Cornwallis to the Resident at Hyderabad.

58. Your Honorable Court will receive, by the present dispatch, a copy of a letter dated the 22d of March, which was addressed to us by Sir John Kennaway, advising us of his having delivered to the Nizam His Majesty's letter, and the present of lustres sent for that purpose from England.

59. The correspondence with the Resident at Hyderabad upon subjects not already noticed; including those concerning border disputes with Tippoo Sultaun, will be found on our proceedings of the annexed dates.

Consn. 11th February, No. 5.
29th March, No. 16.
19th April, Nos. 5, 7, 8.
6th May, No. 5.

60. A letter, of which we enclose a copy, was written to the Resident at Hyderabad, and another, in corresponding terms, to the Resident at Poonah by Lord Cornwallis, on the 5th of March, notifying for the information of those Courts your appointment of Sir John Shore to succeed to the office of Governor General; and in order to afford time for arranging the articles for the proposed Treaty of Guarantee, as well as furnishing Sir John Shore with a full explanation upon every point that concerned the interests of the two States, it was His Lordship's intention to remain in this country till the month of August next. They were also informed that General Abercromby had been appointed to succeed His Lordship in the command of all the troops in India and to become a member of this Government.

61. The letters that have been received, and orders issued, relative to the provision made for the arrears of *peshcush* due to the Nizam, will be found on our proceedings of the annexed dates.

Consn. 1st February, No. 21.
Do. 18th Do. No. 1.
Do. 25th Do. No. 29.
Do. 29th March, No. 7.
Do. 15th February, No. 4.
Do. 12th April, No. 12.
Do. 1st May, No. 4.
Do. Do. No. 6.
Do. Do. No. 7.
Do. 6 May No. 1.

62. The consultations noted in the margin contain a copy of the correspondence which has passed between the Government and the Commissioners on the Malabar Coast since the date of our dispatches by the *Melville Castle*. The subjects of that Commission will be more fully detailed to you in your dispatches from the Governor in Council at Bombay.

Consn. 8th February,
No. 21, 22, 24,
25, 27, 28, 29.
Do. 15th February,
No. 8.
Do. 22d Do. No. 4.
Do. 11th March,
No. 11.
Do. 18 Do. No. 6A.
Do. 19th April, No.
27.

63. The Government of Bombay and the Resident and Factors at Bussorah will have communicated to your Honorable Court the circumstances, in detail, originating in the murder of a Jew at that factory, and carried at last so far that the Resident had thought it his duty to withdraw from it. The Governor in Council having referred to us for our instructions upon this subject, they were given after due consideration of the correspondence that was laid before us. We have the honor to enclose a copy of these instructions, that, should you think it proper, they may be submitted to His Majesty's Ministers if the matter in dispute should not have been already settled.

64. So many and such serious complaints had been made to the Governor General by the principal merchants of Calcutta, of depredations committed by the pirates on the Malabar Coast, that, although we had received no official information respecting them from the Government of Bombay, we could not entertain a doubt of their being well founded.

65. We were to suppose that the Governor in Council would afford every protection in his power to the trade by the means of the Bombay cruizers until the setting in of the monsoon; but as the security that the merchants could derive from the utmost exertions of the armed vessels would be very imperfect, we requested that General Abercromby would take the subject into his fullest consideration, previous to his departure from Bombay, and that he would endeavour to collect the best information relative to the force and situation of the pirates, and form a plan to be submitted to us, and, if approved, carried into execution after the rains, for obtaining ample redress for the injuries that we have already suffered, and for depriving those bands of robbers of the means of repeating the like outrages in future.

66. After dispatching these instructions to Bombay, we received from that Government several representations of murders and other violences committed by the pirates on the Malabar Coast; and, on the arrival of Sir Robert Abercromby at this Presidency, we shall take into immediate consideration the plan he may propose; and we shall endeavour to obtain for the injured merchants that redress and compensation which they are so well entitled to expect.

Consn. 8th April,
Nos. 10, 11, 12,
13, 14, 15, 16,
17, 18, 19, 20.
Consn. 26th April,
Nos. 16, 17, 18,
19.
Cons. 6th May, Nos.
11, 12, 13, 14,
15, 16, 17, 19,
20.

67 The Resident at Poonah transmitted to us with a letter dated in

January a copy of some correspondence which he had with the Council at Bombay on the subject of a complaint that had been made to him by the Peshwa's Ministers, stating that the Mayor's Court at that Presidency had issued a writ of summons addressed to two subjects of the Maratta State residing in Poonah; and that one of these men, named Tricumdoss, who had gone upon occasional business to Bombay, had been imprisoned there in the common gaol by the authority of the Court.

68. On the supposition that Tricumdoss was actually indebted to any person living under the protection of the Bombay Government, and that he thought proper to come, in a private character, within the bounds of the Mayor's Court's jurisdiction, we conceived that the restraint of his person by that authority, without any circumstances of peculiar rigor, might have been justified by the Company's Resident. But, on the other hand, our public duty obliged us to declare our highest disapprobation of the indifference which the Bombay Council^s had manifested to the representations that were made to them by Sir Charles W. Malet, of the insult which had been offered to the Maratta State by the appearance in Poonah of a writ of summons from their Mayor's Court addressed to two of its subjects.

69. It sufficiently appeared that the writ of summons must have been obtained under the false pretext that Wallabdoss and Tricumdoss were merchants of Bombay; and it is probable that in the first stage of the transaction, no person was blameable but Dada Nousherwan, who might have imposed on the Court. But as the insult that was offered to the Poonah Government by the use which was made of that summons was no less unauthorized by the laws of nations than inconsistent with the friendly connection subsisting between the two Governments, and might be attended with embarrassing effects to the Company's affairs, we declared to the Council of Bombay that we should hold them responsible for delaying to afford satisfactions for the affront as soon as they were informed of the nature of it by Sir Charles Warre Malet, whom we have instructed to give a conciliatory explanation to the Peshwa's Ministers of the culpable mode by which the summons must have been transmitted to Poonah, and to notify our entire disapprobation of it; and in order to render the satisfaction as complete as might now be practicable, we decided that, in the event of Tricumdoss being still in prison at the time that the Bombay Council should receive our letter, effectual measures might be taken for setting him immediately at liberty.

70. We likewise directed that they would institute an enquiry, without loss of time, and ascertain for our information whether the Mayor's Court or Sheriff had any knowledge that Wallabdoss and Tricumdoss were subjects of the Maratta State, residing at Poonah, or had any concern in transmitting the summons to that capital; and, as there could be no doubt of the culpability of Dady Nousherwan in this transaction, we directed that they should take the means which might appear most efficacious for deterring others from following his example by punishing him either by prosecution in the Mayor's Court, or any other mode that might appear to them most eligible.

71. We further desired that they would, as soon as might be practicable, transmit to us a copy of all the proceedings of their Board on Sir Charles

Malet's representations upon this subject, that, in case there had been any difference of opinion amongst the members, we might be able to form a discriminate judgement on their respective responsibility.

72. We have received from the Council at Bombay copies of their proceedings and correspondence, and the opinions of the Company's Solicitors at that Presidency prior and subsequent to the receipt of these orders.

Consn. 18th February, Nos. 6 & 7.
 Do. 12th April, Nos. 14, 15, 16.
 Do. 22d Do. Nos. 2, 3, 4.
 Do. 26th Do. Nos. 20, 21, 22.
 Do. 6th May, Nos. 7, 8 & 10.

73. On the arrival of the first explanatory papers that were sent to us from Bombay relative to this business, we transmitted them to our Advocate General desiring his opinion whether the steps taken by the Sheriff, and the proceedings and decisions of the Mayor's Court at Bombay on the complaint and case of Dady Nasserwanjee *versus* Tricumdoss Vrandavandoss and Walabdoss Madow Doss, had been regular and legally warranted by the charter constituting the Mayor's Court; or in what instances they appeared to him to be otherwise; and what measure, under the circumstances set forth in the papers, he thought might be legally adopted by the Government of Bombay, and under what instructions to that Government, to bring Dady Nasserwanjee to punishment for the part he had taken in the different stages of the transaction relative to Tricumdoss.

74. The Advocate General having thought it necessary, to enable him to furnish the opinion desired of him, that he should be informed of the rules and orders under which the proceedings of the Mayor's Court at Bombay are governed, we have applied for a copy of them; and on its being sent to us, Mr. Burroughs will lay before us his answer to our reference, and we shall then take up the business again.

75. The Company's Solicitors at Bombay informed that Board that they could not propose any mode except that of paying the debt by which Tricumdoss Vrandavandoss might be liberated, as, after a full hearing in Court, it had been decided, with only one dissenting voice, that the proceedings in the cause had been perfectly regular and legal, and, consequently, that the defendant must remain in custody. Under these circumstances, the Board at Bombay, deeming it their duty to prevent the Company's sustaining so considerable a loss as the payment of 1,61,000 rupees, the amount of Nasserwanjee's demand, would be prepared to compromise Nasserwanjee's dispute with Tricumdoss, on the assurance that they would recommend Nasserwanjee in the strongest manner, both to the Governor General in Council and the Resident at Poonah, for the purpose of procuring their good offices with the Marratta Court to bring about a speedy and amicable adjustment. This proposal was immediately complied with on the part of Nasserwanjee, and a petition was presented by him to the Mayor's Court to withdraw all proceedings against Trecumdoss, who was accordingly released from confinement.

76. We are sorry that there is still another subject on which the Bombay Council appeared to us to have acted improperly. Sir Charles Malet had

transmitted to us copies of his correspondence with that Board, and their acting President, relative to an application from the Peshwa's Government for a suspension of duties upon grain imported into the Marratta country, a quantity having been detained by the officers of the customs for the payment of those duties. The Resident had stated to the Board that it would have a very good effect at the Court of Poonah if the duties were remitted at a time when the general scarcity which prevailed in the Marratta country rendered a step of that nature proper both on grounds of humanity and policy. But it was declined.

77. We could not help expressing our concern to observe that, in a business of this trifling nature as well as in the transaction of Tricumdoss, they had not paid the smallest attention to the maintenance of the friendship subsisting between the Company's Government and the Maratta State, which they well knew it had cost us so much pains to establish; but that, on the contrary, the whole tenor of their conduct towards that nation was not only unkind but tinctured with injustice and ingratitude. We thought that the proposition in Sir Charles Malet's letter to their acting Resident [sic], dated the 20th of December last, was perfectly fair and equitable, and even in some degree advantageous to your interest; and we could not therefore too strongly express how much we disapproved of their rejecting it. It was that, for the sake of relieving the calamity which was then prevalent in the Mahratta country, and in order to manifest the sincere friendship of the two Governments, the Bombay Presidency should propose at once to the Court of Poonah the abolition of all imposts or impediments upon grain landing at Bombay or going through it till the 30th of the following June, on condition that, in like manner and for the same good purpose of humanity, the Poonah Government should, for the same period, abolish all imposts or impediments upon vessels importing grain to its ports through the harbour of Bombay, and from such ports to the city of Poonah, providing likewise to the satisfaction of the Company's

Consn. 25th February, No. 17.

Resident that this intended relief should not be prevented or evaded by unusual exactions of bullock masters, or the masters of any other conveyance, but that the

traffic in grain should be absolutely and *bona fide* free. To this proposition it was objected by the Bombay Government that your own subjects were suffering the greatest distress from want of grain, and that they had a right to expect protection and relief; that they had not laid an embargo on that

Consn. 25th February, No. 20.

article, but on the contrary, in order to encourage a large importation, they had permitted the merchants to export half the quantities they imported; that this

measure would probably be attended with the most beneficial consequences to the subjects of both States, considering the large supplies expected from Bengal in consequence of the discontinuance of the embargo here; and that the customs of the port of Bombay formed so considerable a part of the revenues of that Presidency, and had been so long established, that they did not think themselves authorized to deviate from the regulations which had been constantly observed.

78. We instructed Sir Charles Malet to confer with the Peshwa's Ministers on the subject, and directed the Government of Bombay to comply immediately with any proposal of the nature which we have mentioned. that Sir Charles

Malet might recommend ; and we desired that they would be strictly on their guard, in future, not to counteract the political engagements of the Supreme Government.

79. The Bombay Government vindicated themselves from any intention of the kind, and declared that the line of conduct which they had pursued had been regulated by their regard to the interests of their employers, which, under the opinion that the duties on grain were to be totally abolished, they imagined would suffer a very material injury, the chief part of your revenue accruing from Bombay being produced by the customs collected there.

80. To this representation we have answered that it certainly was not intended by our instructions of the 23d of February, that any part of the Company's rights or royalties should be surrendered, or that any branch of the revenues should be permanently relinquished, in the accommodation afforded to the Mahratta State by suspending the duties in a season of distress ; and that we were satisfied by the assurances given us that the Bombay Government were not insensible of the advantages to be derived from the maintenance of friendship with the Court of Poonah, and by their declaration of their intention to support the political engagements of this Government.

81. Some subjects of our correspondence with the Resident at Poona have been already mentioned. Those that relate to the Treaty of Guarantee, the question concerning Kurnoul, the Nizam's visit to Bider, and his consequent intention to proceed to the Mahratta capital, are discussed at large in the Resident's letters entered in our proceedings of the annexed dates, to which it may be sufficient to refer you as they have been noticed in our relation of the correspondence with Sir John Kennaway.

82. There are very few circumstances in respect to the differences between Sindia and Nana Furnaveese which we shall think it necessary to relate. It seems to us that the same conclusion may, at this time, be drawn concerning them that was suggested by Sir Charles Malet when he wrote to us in January. He expressed himself in these terms :

"No visible change has yet taken place in the state of parties at this Court ; and it appears to me pretty clear that so long as the present Ministry can preserve its place in the young Peshwah's personal estimation, its resources to oppose the entire ascendancy of Scindia are extremely formidable, if not insurmountable, by that chieftain, who, separated at so great a distance from the seat of his family power, from his new acquisitions, and from the bulk of his military force, is exposed in a singular manner to the influence of the jealousy and rivalry of his fellow chieftains, instigated by the arts and supported by the latent partiality of the Court. Thus circumstanced, the important measure of placing Govin Row Guykwar in possession of the family territory in Guzzerat by the expulsion of his brother Monnajee employs the utmost political circumspection of both parties, since, though the enterprize has been ostensibly undertaken by the *Durbar* on the *Par*... commenda-

tion⁹, yet is its completion found to be pregnant with the danger of throwing that great branch of the empire into the already too weighty scale of Madajee Scindia's influence. This source of embarrassment, with the secret encouragement which will arise from it from a considerable party here, will, I hope, either enable Monnajee to oppose the enterprize with effect, or delay its execution till the intervention of new events may render it impracticable, since, without having recourse to speculative apprehensions (however rational) in support of my objections to the entire subordination of that great branch of this empire either to Madajee Sindia or the Peshwa, from the independence of which we have, on former occasions, derived so great advantage, I cannot help apprehending that the enterprize would involve an alienation of the Guikwar territory that might give an objectionable increase of power to the Peshwa in the city and neighbourhood of Surat, and would be highly exceptionable on the 8th article of Treaty of Salbyhe¹⁰, by which the indivisibility of the Guikwar territory is specifically provided for."

83. The preparations for the establishment of Govin Row still continue; but, new causes of jealousy having arisen between the Poona Ministry and Scindia, it is probable that their opposition to the chief, whose demands they now find increase with their compliances, will prevent any effectual step being taken injurious to the interests of Monnajee.

84. A serious cause of discontent has recently been added to the numerous ones which had previously existed between Sindia and the Ministry from his having demanded, and in fact extorted, from them the liberation of the *Seychoon* [*Seycheev*], a descendant of one of the great officers of state, who, on grounds with which we have not been acquainted, had been seized by the Maratta Government. Under this powerful patronage, the *Seychoon* [*Seycheev*] demanded satisfaction for the injured honor of himself and family, and also restitution of his possessions, on which the Peshwa's Ministry had for some years been making encroachments. In the prosecution of these demands liberal promises were made to Sindia; and it is said that his good offices were to be further rewarded by the investiture with the entire management of the *jagheer* of the *Seychoon* [*Seycheev*] family under the title of *Dewan*, and with the immediate possession of one or two forts. The Minister disavowed all intention of seizing the *Seychoon* [*Seycheev*], and asserted that the persons employed to remove some obnoxious people about the *Seychoon* [*Seycheev*] had exceeded their orders. At all events, this circumstance is taken up very warmly, and magnified into a matter of importance, as well by the partisans of Scindia as those of the Ministry, and we imagine, must tend greatly to increase the jealousy which has long embarrassed the councils and measures of both parties.

Upper Provinces.

85. Scindia's possessions and authority in Hindostan do not appear to be in immediate danger from any hostile attempts, but are rapidly declining from mismanagement, which may possibly be intentional for the purpose of concealing the real value of his acquisitions from the Poona Government.

Consn. 1st April,
No. 10.

Comm. 1st May.
No. 2.

London, 5th February,
No. 30.

Comm. 5th April,
No. 33.

Consol. 4th February,
No. 7.

Nagruul.

90. We informed you in the 35th paragraph of our despatches by the *McNeill Castle* that Captain Kirkpatrick had proceeded to Napaul, the obstacles which had caused a temporary delay having been removed. He met the Rajah and his Ministers at a place where they happened to be on an occasional excursion, at some distance from Catmandu, in the beginning of March; and at an interview which he had with them on the 7th, the Rajah informed him that, being under the necessity of returning to his capital, he had left his uncle to transact business with him in his place. Previous to Captain Kirkpatrick's commencing business with the R. Mahadur Shah, the Rajah's uncle, he had learnt from the Gooroo¹² that the

Napaul beyond the end of March was a matter not wished for by the *Durbar*. He had also received information from the same quarter that, although the Regent was perfectly sensible of the advantages which were likely to be derived to his country from cultivating an intimate intercourse with the English Government, and that he was personally well disposed to avail himself of those advantages, yet, that he had at length been compelled to yield to the obstinate resistance of a certain powerful party who could not be reconciled to the idea of our Minister's remaining long in Napaul. The party had originally opposed the invitation given to Captain Kirkpatrick to proceed from Patna, nor could they now be induced to consent to his stay, though their chief objection to his introduction had been removed, as he had then had opportunities of observing the weakness of the country; and this it was much their wish to prevent. At the head of the party was the Deputy Regent, together with several others, who possessed much weight at the *Durbar*.

91. Great as the credit and power of Behaudar Shah were, yet they were not sufficient to render him regardless of the remonstrances of this party: and to that must be added the prospect of the Rajah's taking the Government into his own hands, however averse from such a measure he might hitherto have appeared.

92. Under these circumstances, it might possibly have afforded matter of complaint sufficient to have induced the Rajah to take the Government into his own hands, should Behader Shah have attempted to detain Captain Kirkpatrick in Napaul, contrary to the advice of his co-adjutors in the Ministry.

93. In the conference held between Captain Kirkpatrick and Behader Shah, subsequent to the Rajah's departure, the Regent recapitulated the chief incidents of the war with China, acknowledged the friendly advice which he had received from this Government on the imprudence of carrying on hostilities against so formidable a power, and the high sense of the obligation he felt for our wishes to bring about an accommodation with the Chinese; and he slightly alluded to the disappointment felt at not having received the assistance which was requested from the English Government.

94. To this Captain Kirkpatrick answered that it had been an invariable rule with us to remain neuter in all disputes between the neighbouring powers except in such cases as affected the rights or the honor of the Company, and he appealed to Behader Shah whether the conduct of this Government had not uniformly tended to cement the growing friendship between the Company and the Rajah of Napaul. The adjustment of all questions relative to boundaries and the commercial intercourse between your territories and those of the Rajah, Captain Kirkpatrick next observed, were subjects upon which the English and Napaul Governments must necessarily feel themselves much interested, and which he doubted not would soon be arranged to the mutual satisfaction of both. To this, Behader Shah gave general assurances of his good will towards the Company, and of his readiness to facilitate every commercial or other arrangement with us on grounds equally advantageous and honorable for all parties, but that the season was fast approaching when the nature of the climate would obstruct all intercourse between Catmandu and the surrounding countries, and that the trade of Bonton and Thibet was at

present totally suspended, owing to the late hostilities, and could not for some time be restored to its former channels. Captain Kirkpatrick knowing from the information which he had received from the Gooroo that his longer continuance in Napaul would not be agreeable to the *Durbar*, and thinking it most suitable to the dignity of this Government that the proposition for his returning to Bengal should originate with himself, availed himself of the approach of the unwholesome season as a pretext for soliciting permission to depart; and after some general expressions of a desire that he should remain longer, a day was fixed for his audience of leave, which accordingly took place on the 24th of March. Behader Shah renewed his former professions of friendship and attachment, and expressed some solicitude lest a future English Government should not exert themselves equally with the present in maintaining the friendship newly formed with the Government of Napaul, to which he received for answer that, as the maintenance of the Company's true interests must always be the object of every English Government, and as the cultivation of a friendly intercourse with Napaul was blended in an intimate degree with that object, he might be assured that there never could be a British administration in India who would so far forget their duty as to act upon different principles. The deputation left Catmandu on the 24th of March, and experienced the utmost attention during their passage through the Rajah's territories. Captain Kirkpatrick is now returned to Calcutta.

95. Although every purpose that could have been wished has not been effected by this deputation owing to the state of the internal government of Napaul, yet it is of no small importance to us to have commenced an immediate intercourse with that Government, and to have had an opportunity of making observations on the manners of the people and the real situation of that country by the means of our own servants.

96. We shall transmit to you, numbers in the packet, copies of Captain Kirkpatrick's letter to us dated the 19th of March, and of a paper containing the substance of a conversation held by Moulave Abdul Kauder on the part of Captain Kirkpatrick with the Rajah of Napaul on the 15th of the same month, in which the objects of the deputation were fully discussed and the wishes of the Rajah for a closer connection with the English Government at a future period clearly stated.

97. We also send a letter from the Rajah to the Governor General expressing his regard for the English, and we shall add thereto a translation of the Chinese letter mentioned in the 5th paragraph of our dispatch by the *Europa*¹², which
 Consn. 22d April,
 No. 16. Captain Kirkpatrick obtained at Napaul.

98. Captain Kirkpatrick's conduct upon this mission met with our entire approbation, being sensible that under the circumstances that occurred, and the state of things as he found them in Napaul, no one could have acquitted himself with more ability, prudence, and circumspection.

Assam.

99. With our letter by the *Melville Castle*, dated the 29th of January, we transmitted a complete copy of our correspondence with Captain Welsh up to that time.

100. From that you will have learned that he had insisted on the dismissal of the Rajah's Ministers as the only probable means of restoring the country, even in the slightest degree, to order.

101. The Rajah, after much hesitation and delay, at length signified on the 4th of February his consent to remove the *Burra Burwa*¹⁴, and *Cholladerah Fogan*¹⁵ from their respective offices, and at the same time requested to see Captain Welsh. As a preliminary to any meeting, Captain Welsh sent him four articles, to which he expressed a desire that the Rajah should agree, and he gave him to understand that his conduct at a preceding interview had been so intemperate that he must decline further intercourse with him until he promised to adopt such measures as might be pointed out to him for the benefit of himself and his subjects.

102. To these articles, the Rajah gave the readiest assent, and instantly dismissed the two obnoxious Ministers from each of whom a written engagement had been taken not to have any communication with him, nor to interfere directly or indirectly in the affairs of Assam. The Rajah had also summoned the different chiefs under his Government to meet Captain Welsh, and concert such measures as may appear most likely to obtain the objects of the deputation, the re-establishment of the internal tranquillity of the country, and the opening of a free commercial intercourse between Assam and the Company's provinces.

103. The Rajah Kistna Narain at length confided so far in Captain Welsh as to solicit his protection, and avows his intentions to obey the invitation sent to him, provided his personal safety were not endangered by his quitting his present situation. He received the strongest assurance of protection and support; and there was much reason to hope that his presence would considerably facilitate the conclusion of any arrangements it might be necessary to make. The total want of confidence in the Rajah had as yet been the chief obstacle to the execution of the objects of the mission; but when this was removed, and the people found that there was a prospect of the Government's being finally settled, there was reason to hope that the trade might become both profitable and extensive. The regulations under which commerce had been carried on previous to the arrival of the detachment in Assam were such as must have oppressed the merchants heavily without producing any considerable revenue to the Rajah, owing to the monopolizing spirit of the late Ministry, and to the frauds committed by them, as well in levying the duties as in paying the amount to their master.

104. A new system of commercial regulations, of which we enclose a copy, has been laid before the Rajah by Captain Welsh, and received his approbation. We have no doubt that it will prove advantageous to both countries as soon as Assam shall be in a state of sufficient tranquillity to admit of its being carried into complete effect. But we have delayed the publication of it, lest we might mislead the merchants, and encourage them to embark too deeply in a trade which must

be attended with considerable hazard so long as the country remains in its present state.

105. It being apparent to us that, in proportion to the good effects hitherto derived to the Rajah and country of Assam from the presence of the detachment, the consequence of its immediate departure would be ruinous to your future trade, we have instructed Captain Welsh to take such measures as may appear most eligible to him for providing the necessary stock of provisions to enable him to carry our orders on this head into execution, at the same time directing that a sufficient number of boats may be kept in readiness, should any unforeseen event render it proper to recall him. The sepoys have accordingly been put into huts, and the proper measures taken to procure a plentiful and uninterrupted supply of grain and other articles necessary for the subsistence of the troops.

106. The Rajah Kistna Narain, who had for some time been a fugitive in the mountains of Boutan, inspired with confidence by the letters from Captain Welsh, has descended from his retreat into the plains, and has solicited an interview with that gentleman. He has also expressed a wish to become tributary to the Company for the territories held by his late father, who was put to death by Surgi Deo¹⁶ and deprived of Kamroop, which, as well as Derungh, had long been the property of his family. No answer has as yet been given to his request, and we do not yet know, how far it may be expedient to comply with the terms of it.

107. By a letter received from the Rajah of Assam, we find that he wished the detachment to remain in his country as the only mode of enabling him to retain the Government, and remove the fatal effects of the anarchy and confusion, which, previous to the arrival of Captain Welsh, had prevailed in every part of his dominions. We have not yet come to any decision on the propriety of agreeing, or refusing to comply, with this solicitation.

Miscellanea.

108. We have the pleasure to inform you that several of the ring-leaders of the disturbances, created in Assam by *burkondosses* from the Company's territories, have been taken; and we trust that the exertions daily used to repress the incursions of these banditti will soon produce the desired effect. The wives and families of some of them, which had been sent to Cooch Behar, and detained there, have since been permitted to go to Gualparah, from whence the major part of them had been taken, as the Commissioner at Cooch Behar imagined that a longer detention of them as prisoners might have been attended with perhaps fatal consequences to their health.

109. The Rajah of Nagpoor having applied for a remission of the duties at Gyah in favor of Bagwunt Row Gopaul, one of his confidential servants, together with 18 followers, the request was complied with.
 Consn. 15th March, No. 16.
110. The Resident with Sindia having made a similar application in favor of Govind Naig, who is related to Bhow Bucksy, we have directed that the requisition may be attended to.
 Consn. 18th March, No. 15.
111. Ahleah Bhaw [*Ahalya Bai*], in a letter to the Governor General, requested a similar remission in favor of her agent Moheeput Row and 3000 followers, and orders have in consequence been given not to exact any duties from Moheeput and 1000 of his attendants.
 Consn. 15th April, No. 16.
 Consn. 26th April, No. 34.
112. Having received information from the Collector of Ramgur that Rajah Ajeet Sing had entered the *purgunnah* Barwa, and was committing various depredations there, but that a temporary cessation of such unjustifiable conduct had taken place on his application to Ragojee Boosla, who, having set up a pretended claim to exact contributions from different zemindars in that *purgunnah*, has sent the troops thither to enforce them, we instructed Major Farmer, whose assistance had been previously solicited by the Collector, to take such steps as seemed most eligible for the restoration of the peace and government of the district. We also wrote to Ragojee desiring him to take proper measures to prevent a repetition of such outrages, and to compel the Soorgajah Rajah to indemnify the Zemindar of Barwa for the losses which he had sustained by the burning of his villages, and for the cattle which had been forcibly taken away from the inhabitants.
 Consn. 11th February, No. 18.
 Consn. 25th February, No. 28.
 Consn. 15th February, No. 28.
 15th February, No. 14.
 Consn. 15th February, No. 28.
113. Considering that the confidence and connection which is now fully established between this Government and the Mahrattas have rendered the continuance of a Resident at Ballasore any longer unnecessary, we have recalled Mr. Wilkinson, the late Resident at that place, and taken the necessary measures to prevent any interruption being given to the passage of the dawk through the Cuttack country.
 Consn. 18th March, No. 13.

Fort William,
 18th May, 1793.

We have the honor to be,
 Honorable Sirs,
 Your most faithful humble servants.

(Per Tartar.)

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 1 AUGUST 1793

News of the declaration of war against France received—Siege of Pondicherry begun—Offer of help to the Dutch—Request for commissions to try prize cases.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Since we had the honor of addressing you in May last by the *Tartar* packet, events have occurred here which we think it necessary to acquaint you with by a packet overland. They will be mentioned briefly, a detailed account of our proceedings being to be sent at the end of this month or beginning of September by a sea conveyance.

2. On the 2d June Lord Cornwallis received a letter dated the 19th of December, 1792, from Mr. Dundas, one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, transmitting a copy of His Majesty's speech to both Houses of Parliament, together with the addresses to the King thereupon, and apprizing His Lordship that in consequence of the particulars therein stated His Majesty had judged it necessary to make an augmentation of his forces by sea and land.

3. On the 8th a letter was written by Lord Cornwallis to Sir Charles Oakely, your Governor at Fort St. George, informing him that, as there was every reason to believe from the accounts which had been brought by the ships lately arrived at Bombay that a war with France was inevitable, it was proper we should consider what steps ought to be taken on the notification of that event. The reduction of Pondicherry was stated as the principal object, and it was recommended that previous arrangements should be concerted with your principal military officers on the Coast for the movement of the troops that we might be prepared to act when authorized by further information.

4. It was also suggested that the Madras Government should, immediately upon receiving certain accounts of a war, send Colonel Floyd with a detachment of cavalry and infantry to encamp near Pondicherry with orders to cut off all supplies of provisions, to pick up stragglers, and destroy everything within his reach up to the gates. Lord Cornwallis at the same time wrote to the Commodore to request that he would, in the event of a war, either come or send a frigate to convey His Lordship to the Coast as soon as the season should admit of his getting out of this river, provided that, at that time, any part of the naval force could be spared from more important operations.

5. On the 11th of June we received from the Governor in Council at Fort St. George by the *Drake* cruizer, which had arrived there from Suez on the 1st, copies of dispatches dated the 10th of April from Mr. Baldwin, His Majesty's Consul at Alexandria, with a detail of intelligence from Europe, notifying in positive terms that the French had declared war against Great Britain and Holland on the 1st of February, 1793. He held himself resp

truth of this intelligence ; and we determined to consider it, under the sanction Mr. Baldwin had given to it, as sufficiently authentic to warrant us in adopting those measures that must have followed a regular official communication of the war. We therefore issued orders, which were effected without resistance, for taking possession of Chandernagore, and the several French factories in this country, and seizing the vessels here that carried the French flag. We either confined or put the subjects of France on their parole ; and we issued such commissions as were authorized by the Company's charter in the form necessary to warrant the commanders of the country ships in acting against the enemy at sea.

6. The Government of Madras immediately commenced the necessary preparations for the siege of Pondicherry, where Colonel Floyd, with a detachment consisting of the force mentioned in the margin, arrived on the 11th of July to blockade it on the land side, while the Commodore with His Majesty's frigate the *Minerva* and three of your China ships, the *Triton*, *Warley*, and *Royal Charlotte*, are employed to prevent supplies from being imported by sea ; and the French factories of Karical and Yanam have been taken possession of by the officers of the Madras Government. The Commodore had been at Trincomali for the purpose of giving some repairs to the *Minerva* ; and having received at that place, on the 19th of June, the intelligence sent to him by the Madras Government of the war he left it on the 21st.

7. He arrived at Fort St. George on the 27th and having made arrangements for obtaining the assistance of the three Indiamen he took his station in company with them on the 10th of July off Pondicherry.

8. The place has from that time been completely blocked up by sea. A French frigate, believed to be the *Sybelle*, of 40 or 44 guns, appeared in the offing on the 14th and was for some time chased by the Commodore ; but he was obliged to desist, lest he should be drawn too far from the main object of his attention.

9. The French at Pondicherry have been busily employed in repairing and strengthening the fortifications, which are now reported to be in a very good state of defence, and have lately received some supplies of military stores from the Islands. But we have reason to think from our information that the Europeans of all descriptions in the garrison are under one thousand, and that the native troops do not greatly exceed that number. The French naval force in India, however small, is still superior to ours, and we cannot but be very solicitous for official advices from Europe to inform us what addition we may expect to it. Our latest intelligence is that there were at the Islands on the 1st of June three or four frigates and a corvette. One of them is the *Sybelle* which has lately made her appearance on the Coast.

10. There does not appear to be the smallest probability that Tippoo Sultaun or any other native power will assist the French during the present war.

11. Lord Cornwallis is in hopes of being able to proceed to the Coast in ten or twelve days ; and we are embarking five companies of artillery and 12 of lascars to assist at the siege, with a battering train and other stores, in ships freighted to transport them.

12. We gave public notice of the war at this place, and sent early intelligence of it to Fort Marlbro', the Andamans and Prince of Wales Island, with directions to put those places in the best state of defence that circumstances would admit. We also directed the Bombay Government to take possession of all the French settlements within the bounds of that Presidency, but that no time might be lost in reducing Mahé, Lord Cornwallis, very soon after the intelligence of the war reached Bengal, sent orders at once to the Malabar Coast for that purpose.

13. The Dutch at Chinsurah were likewise immediately informed of the declaration of war against their nation as well as our own; and although it could hardly be supposed that the people at Chandernagore, before we could take possession of it, would molest the Dutch, we thought it right to assure them, in that or any other case, the friendship and alliance subsisting between our Governments would secure to them every assistance from us that they might require.

14. At the beginning of last month we received a letter from the Governor and Council at Cochin acquainting us with the danger to which they apprehended that they should be exposed in the event of an attack in their present defenceless situation by our common enemies the French, and requesting our assistance. It appeared to us very improbable that the French at Mauritius would venture, or be in a condition, to make an attempt upon Cochin, or any other settlement of either nation upon the continent of India; but, in order to guard against all possible contingencies, we sent instructions to the Commanding Officer of the troops on the Malabar Coast, and advice thereof to the Bombay Government, to reinforce the garrison at Cochin, if the Governor and Council should make application to that effect, with as much dispatch as possible, with one battalion of Europeans or, if more convenient for the service, with one battalion of native troops and four or five companies of Europeans, provided he should receive assurances from the Government of Cochin that the magazines of that place, with the assistance of such fresh provisions as they might be able to secure, could supply the whole garrison for at least three months, and unless he should, from circumstances with which we could not be acquainted, have reason to believe that the safety of your establishments on the Malabar Coast would be most imminently endangered by his compliance with the application.

15. Much inconvenience being to be expected during the war if commissions for hearing and determining prize causes should not be sent out to the Supreme Court of Judicature here, and to the Mayor's Courts of Madras and Bombay, authorizing the condemnation of prizes in the same manner as in the British plantations in America and the West Indies, we beg leave to submit to you the expediency of obtaining and transmitting those commissions to India as soon as possible. We also request that your Solicitor may be desired to furnish you for the use of your Governments with the most approved precedents he can meet with of proceedings in prize causes, no instance being to be found, as far as we are advised, of any condemnation or even of any prize causes having been instituted to the present time.

Fort William,
1st of August, 1793.
(Overland.)

We have the honor to be,
Sirs,
Your most faithful

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 13 AUGUST 1793

Improvement of the defences of the ceded countries in the South—Siege of Pondicherry: help rendered by the Nawab of Arcot—Strict neutrality in the Gaikwad family disputes—The Nizam: loans to Sindia; alleged treason of Malik Isa with Tipu's backing; unwise interference in Karnul; offer of aid to the Company in the war—Victory of Sindia over Nana Phadnis in the Pant Sachiv affair—Negotiations about the Treaty of Guarantee: Peshwa's counter-proposals—Tipu: payment of the second instalment of the war indemnity; border disputes to be settled by arbitration; no English prisoners in Mysore—Virtual peace between Sindia and Holkar—Fall in revenues and increasing financial difficulties of Sindia—Some improvement in Oudh administration—Peace re-established in Assam—Capture of Chandernagore and appointment of Birch as Superintendent: policy to be pursued in conquered French Settlements—Cornwallis's departure to the South to supervise the siege of Pondicherry.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for the affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Our advices from this Department by the *Tartar* packet were dated the 18th of May, 1793, and the detail which we have now the honor to lay before you will commence with such occurrences as have happened since the departure of that vessel.

*Fort St. George and Bombay, the Nabob Nizam Ally Khan,
the Mahrattas, and Tippoo Sultan.*

Fort St. George.

2. We were acquainted by the Governor in Council at Fort St. George that the disturbances in the Guntoor had again commenced and that a body of plunderers to the number of three thousand under the command of a freebooter named Mheer Imaum suddenly passed the Kistna on the 22d of April, and took possession of the fort of Timry Cottah, which they plundered.

Consn. 24 May,
No. 10.

3. His Highness the Nabob requested from the Madras Government immediate assistance to restore peace to the Palnaud District, and quiet the fears of the inhabitants who had been alarmed and had suffered much from the depredations of those people; and application was in consequence made to Colonel Brathwaite, the Commanding Officer, for his opinion as to the number of troops to be employed to retake the fort and punish the plunderers who had captured

Consn. 24th May,
No. 12.

it; but before any troops could be detached from Ongole to effect these purposes intelligence was received from the Officer Commanding at that place that the banditte had evacuated Timry Cottah and that the guns had not been carried off. Effectual measures have since been taken to prevent a repetition of similar depredations, and a remonstrance on the subject of the outrage has been made on the part of the Madras Government to the Nizam, to whom the principal of these insurgents is more or less subject.

4. In the 26th paragraph of our letter by the *Tartar*², we acquainted you with an application we had received from the Madras Government for our concurrence in the arrangements they had proposed for establishing their frontiers to the westward, referring us, at the same time, to a letter from Colonel Brathwaite, and a report from their Chief Engineer concerning the forts in the ceded countries. We had also the honor of laying before you (by the same conveyance) the answer which we had sent at the recommendation of Lord Cornwallis to this reference.

5. Colonel Brathwaite, in a subsequent letter to the Governor in Council, stated it to be his opinion, as well as that of Captain Read, whose local information of the country was undoubted, that the natural strength of the districts in question was such as to make the forts unnecessary. Yielding to the professional knowledge of both these officers, and being very desirous of avoiding (as far as might be consistent with the safety of the Company's possessions) any increase of expence, we were induced to alter our former determination; and Lord Cornwallis wrote to Colonel Brathwaite to acquaint him that we had done so.

6. His Lordship's letter was expressed in the following terms:—"When I gave it as my opinion to the Governor of Fort St. George that it would not be advisable to demolish any of the inferior forts in the country that were of sufficient strength to resist an immediate assault, I conceived that those forts, like some of the Carnatic forts in the former wars, and those of a similar description in the country of Mysore in the last war, would afford considerable protection to the persons and property of the inhabitants in the event of a predatory incursion; that they would occasion very little expence to the Company as they might be garrisoned principally by invalids; and that no material ill consequence was to be apprehended even if they should fall into the enemy's hands, as no native troops would venture to stand an assault from us in such posts, and we should immediately recover the possession of them, as soon as our troops had time to assemble, and were capable of acting in the field. The concurrent testimony of yourself and Captain Read assures me that the strength of the country is alone sufficient to protect the inhabitants &c. under the circumstances which I had supposed, and that it is not possible to garrison those forts with invalids. I submit therefore to the authority of opinions formed from local knowledge, and shall recommend to the Government of Fort St. George to adopt the plan for the demolition of those forts which you have proposed."

7. In the 27th paragraph of our last letter we acquainted His Lordship the Court that we had signified our readiness to a

ment raising two additional battalions, and we had requested that if they should be desirous of the immediate adoption of the measure, they would call on the commanding officer of the troops for a plan, to be transmitted to us, of the mode he would propose of levying and forming such additional force.

8. This plan was in consequence submitted to us, and, at the recommendation of Lord Cornwallis, we acceded to the mode suggested by Colonel Brathwaite. The situation of affairs immediately previous to the arrival of the intelligence that war in Europe had been actually declared appearing to the Government at Fort St. George to justify the immediate execution of the measure, orders were issued for making the drafts according to the plan pointed out by the Commanding Officer.

Consn. 7th June,
Nos. 3, 4, 5.

9. These and other military preparations having induced the Governor of Pondicherry to suppose that hostilities were meditated by the Government at Fort St. George against the French settlements, he addressed a letter on the 7th of June, 1793, to Sir Charles Oakeley in the following terms:—"The harmony and good understanding which exist between our respective nations appear to me to authorize the steps which I have the honor to take in respect to you. I learn that preparations for war are making at Madras; and as I have not received any official intelligence on this subject, and as they give great uneasiness to the inhabitants of Pondicherry, permit me to request you will inform me, if possible, what may be the reasons which occasion this armament. It is not, Sir, that I desire to penetrate the secrets of your nation; but circumstances require that, on my part, I should solicit from your candour the cause of a rupture so unexpected, and which comes so *mal a propos* to disturb the good faith which exists between the subjects of Great Britain and the French who inhabit this part of the world. I expect, Sir, from your generosity a sincere explanation on this point, and be assured, whatever may be the reason of it, it will only add to the sentiments of esteem which I have ever entertained for the English nation."

Consn. 28th June,
No. 19.

10. To this requisition an answer was transmitted by Sir Charles Oakeley, who declined in civil terms to give the information desired by Colonel Chermon.

Consn. 28th June,
No. 20.

11. The Governor General, on the 8th of June, in consequence of a letter received by His Lordship from the Right Honorable Mr. Dundas, one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, acquainting him that His Majesty had thought proper to make considerable additions to his forces, both by sea and land, recommended to Sir Charles Oakeley that, as a war seemed highly probable, a corps of observation should be immediately formed under the command of Colonel Floyd for the purpose of intercepting supplies, and cutting off all communication between Pondicherry and the country; and he likewise desired that all previous arrangements should be made for assembling a sufficient force, and for being prepared in every respect to besiege that place in the event of the commencement of hostilities between Great Britain and France.

12. On the 1st of June the Government at Fort St. George received intelligence, by the *Drake* cruizer, from Mr. Baldwin at Cairo that war had

been declared against Great Britain by the French on the first of February 1793; and although this information was not attended by any official communication from England, yet as Mr. Baldwin had rendered himself responsible for the truth of it, the Governor in Council at Fort Saint George could not think himself justified in delaying the necessary measures till a more formal notification arrived, as the French would be enabled in the meantime to make such arrangements for the protection of their settlements as might prolong the siege of Pondicherry to the period at which the monsoon commonly sets in on the Coromandel Coast.

13. Under these circumstances recourse was had to Colonel Brathwaite, the Commanding Officer of the troops, and his opinion was desired as to the steps proper to be taken to ensure the reduction of Pondicherry.

14. Colonel Brathwaite laid before the Governor in Council a statement of the force that appeared to him necessary to ensure the capture of the place, and recommended the measures which he deemed proper for the protection of the Company's territories against the incursions of poligars or others who might wish to avail themselves of any temporary diminution of the number of the troops that had been cantoned in different districts.

15. The Government of Fort St. George gave their assent to the plan proposed, and we also concurred with it.

16. Among other steps suggested by Colonel Brathwaite, that of forming an army of observation (a measure also advised in Lord Cornwallis's letter of the 8th of June) was mentioned as necessary, as the corps of which it should consist were proposed by him to be placed under the command of Colonel Flyod, and to proceed immediately into the neighbourhood of Pondicherry, keeping at a sufficient distance from the place to prevent surprize in a night march, and at the same time so near that any supplies should not be thrown into the town from the adjacent country.

17. The force under Colonel Floyd, consisting of Captain Carlisle's company of artillery, and the lascars attached to it, five brigades of 6 pounders, His Majesty's 19th Regiment of Light Dragoons, the Honorable Company's 4th Regiment of Cavalry, His Majesty's 71st and 72nd Regiments, and the Company's 6th, 8th and 19th Native Battalions, took up their ground in the vicinity of Chingleput, to which place large quantities of stores had been forwarded. Orders were at the same time sent to the other corps of which the army was to be composed to advance by the nearest routes to Pondicherry, and a sufficient detachment was thrown into Cuddalore for the protection of that place against an attempt on the part of the French, should they meditate anything more than a defensive war.

18. It appearing to the Government at Fort St. George most advisable to provide for the transportation of all the artillery and stores by land as it was uncertain when a safe conveyance for them by sea could be procured, and that the risk of difficulty of landing so large a quantity of heavy articles on the Coast was very great, they resolved to send them in that manner; and the service was accomplished without retarding the commencement of the siege by the exertions of the officers employed in that very essential branch of the equipment.

19. We shall transmit, as numbers in the packet, copies of the letters received from the Officer Commanding in Permacoil, containing the intelligence he had been able to procure concerning the state of Pondicherry, together with copies of the letters from Colonel Floyd, during the time he was encamped near that place, previous to Colonel Braithwaite's taking the command of the army.

20. On the 26th of June, Commodore Cornwallis, who had been at Trincomali for the repair of His Majesty's frigate the *Minerva*, arrived at Madras.

21. The intentions of this Government had been communicated to him relative to attacking the French settlements; and it appearing to His Excellency of much importance to intercept such supplies as might be thrown into Pondicherry by sea, he delivered it as his opinion to the Governor in Council at Fort Saint George, that the three China ships (the *Triton*, *Warley* and *Royal Charlotte*) then at Madras might be of considerable use in effecting this purpose until the arrival of ships of force from Europe. It was accordingly agreed to put them under His Excellency's orders as soon as they could be got ready. The Governor in Council at Madras requested that the ships might not be detained longer than was absolutely necessary, and that when their services could be dispensed with, the Commodore would direct their commanders to proceed in company on their original destination.

22. We send, as numbers in the packet, copies of all letters received from Commodore Cornwallis since the commencement of the preparations for blockading Pondicherry.

23. The Governor General having declared it to be his intention to proceed to the Coast, and take the command of the troops in person, a letter was sent to the Government at Fort St. George, to acquaint them with that intention; and Lord Cornwallis wrote to Colonel Brathwaite in the following terms:

"I have already notified to the Government of Fort St. George that, although it is my intention to repair as soon as possible to Madras, I would not wish the attack of Pondicherry to be delayed for a moment as soon as you are assured of a sufficient supply of artillery, stores, and provisions to enable you to carry on the siege with unremitted vigor; and I trust from your letter that there will not be so much difficulty in conveying by land the apparatus necessary for so considerable an undertaking as I was at first inclined to suspect.

"I have only to add that, as the time of my arrival on the Coast must be in some degree uncertain, I shall, in the meantime, rely with confidence on your experience for conducting the military operations with judgement and activity, and for preserving the army in strict and regular discipline, and I shall also trust that you will avoid unnecessary appointments of every kind and exert the utmost vigilance to prevent waste and speculation in all the public departments."

24. Our proceedings of the annexed date contain copies of letters addressed to the Government at Fort St. George by the Resident at Ingeram and the

Chief and Council at Masulipatam relative to the capture of the French factory at Yanam, and of a French vessel which the Resident had reason to believe was prepared to facilitate a plan conducted by a French gentleman, brother to the Governor of Yanam, for seizing the Company's treasure and other property at Coringa.

Consn. 5th July,
No. 4.

Nabob of Arcot.

25. On the 2nd of June a letter was received by the Governor of Madras from the Nabob Walaw Jah, offering his assistance (should war have been declared against the French) in issuing orders to his *naibs* to prevent the sale of provisions in his districts to the enemy, and in procuring a considerable supply of draft and carriage bullocks for the use of the army.

Consn. 28th June,
No. 21.

26. To this an answer was sent by Sir Charles Oakeley, on the 4th of June, acquainting the Nabob that the Government at Fort St. George would with pleasure avail themselves of His Highness's offer, and that the chief wants would be of provisions and draft cattle, for both of which due payment would be made to the proprietors; and that it was particularly the wish of the Governor in Council that plentiful *bazars* should be provided for the troops and followers when they assembled in the neighbourhood of Pondicherry. Sir Charles Oakeley likewise approved of the steps taken to prevent the French from drawing supplies out of the Nabob's districts, and communicated his intention to give orders to the same effect to the servants of the Company residing on the seacoast to the southward of the garrison.

27. In a second letter, dated the 7th of June, 1793, the Nabob informed the Governor that orders had been sent for collecting bullocks and provisions for the use of the army, that on account of the draught which had existed in the country he was apprehensive that much grain could not be procured but that whatever could be got should be obtained.

Consn. 28th June,
No. 23.

28. His Highness wrote in terms nearly similar to the Governor General, adding a request that certain districts described by him, and to which he asserted that he had a claim, might, in the event of the capture of Pondicherry, be given up to him. He also expressed a hope that, as this was a war between Europeans, the article in the treaty which says that "when war breaks out, the collections of the Carnatic shall be entrusted to the English during the continuance of such war," might not be put in force, but that the revenues should be left under the management of the officers to whom he had entrusted them.

Consn. 24th June,
No. 10.

Consn. 29th July,
No. 2.

17th June, No. 3.

29. To His Highness's expressions of civility and good wishes for the success of the English arms, a suitable answer was returned, expressing our sense of his attachment to the interests of his friends and allies—the Company, and referring him for an answer on the other points mentioned in his letter of the 15th of June to Lord Cornwallis, who was preparing to set off for Madras. He was at the same time assured that we were not at any time desirous of adopting

Consn. 28th June,
No. 34.

measures repugnant to his wishes, and that we were anxious only in the steps we might pursue to provide effectually for the mutual security of His Highness and the English Government.

30. At the time this offer was originally made by the Nabob, although we had much reason to believe that he would exert himself, we still thought that his success was very uncertain, and we recommended to the Government at Fort St. George to take other effectual steps for procuring a certain, regular and ample supply of grain and provisions for the use of the troops.

31. Subsequent letters from His Highness, which were in answer to those written to him by Sir Charles Oakeley stating the precise quantities and kinds of provisions that would be wanted, evinced the justness and propriety of this precaution; and we had also the pleasure of observing that the Government at Fort St. George had early directed their Commissary General to purchase all the grain that could be procured in the districts near Pondicherry as well as to make purchases in the Tanjore country.

Consn. 15th July,
to Fort St. George.

32. The Governor General, from his own experience in the late war as to the most efficacious mode of procuring supplies, suggested to His Highness that the remitting all taxes upon articles sent through his country to the camp *bazars*, while we should on our parts remit not only the taxes usually levied in the Company's territories, but those that are included under the head of *bazar* duties, and the taking measures also for encouraging his subjects to send provisions to camp, would be more likely to attain the objects we had in view than any other means His Highness could adopt.

33. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Nabob has paid the full amount of one year's *kist* amounting, with the *peshcush* from the polygars, to *star pagodas* 15,21,105.

Consn. 15th July,
No. 10.

Rajah of Tanjore.

34. In the 18th paragraph of our letter by the *Tartar* we informed your Honorable Court of the instructions we had sent to the Government at Fort St. George to restore to the Rajah of Tanjore the management of his country. In conformity with these instructions, measures were taken for reinstating him on the 12th of July after he had signed the treaty and promised a strict adherence to its several stipulations.

Consn. 1st July,
No. 1.

35. We transmitted some questions to the Bengal and Benares *pundits*, relative to the laws of inheritance, succession, and adoption amongst the Hindoos, as far as they appeared applicable to the case of Serfojee, the child who was adopted by the late Rajah of Tanjore, and is to succeed to the Government of the Raja, should his immediate successor, the present Rajah, die without issue.

36. We have received the answers, and have ordered translations to be made of them.



Sarbhoji, Raja of Tanjore

Bombay.

37. The general system for the government of the ceded countries on the Malabar Coast was detailed in our last letter; and though from the various and complicated discussions that must necessarily precede the formation of any code of interior regulation, these have not yet been fully arranged. We have nevertheless much reason to hope, from the information conveyed to us by Sir Robert Abercromby, that they were, upon his departure from Bombay, in such a state of forwardness that they might soon be expected to take effect. The mild and proper conduct of the Commissioners had tended not a little to reconcile the Rajahs to a measure so necessary for the peace of the province and ultimately to their own happiness. They had been made fully acquainted with the extent of the rights obtained by the Company, their sovereignty in the province, and the intention to institute courts of justice on a plan similar to those existing in your other territories.

38. A Bombay vessel, on her return from Bengal, having been taken by the *Subadar* of Gheriah under the pretext of her not having had the usual pass from this Government, notice of the seizure was sent to the Governor in Council; and as it was found that a pass had been given for the vessel, immediate application was made to the Mahratta Government to issue orders for restoring her, which, after much discussion, was agreed to on the 28th of May.

39. In the 83 paragraph of our dispatches by the *Tartar* we briefly mentioned the steps that had been taken at Poonah relative to the disputes about the Gaickwar territory. After the [that] time Monajee Row, the present possessor of the Government, addressed a letter to the Governor in Council at Bombay requesting assistance from the English, should the Court of Poonah persist in their apparent intention of putting his brother Govind Row in his place as Regent during the life of their elder brother who was insane. Monajee founded his claim on the article of the treaty concluded between his brother Futty Sing and General Goddard. We have, however, upon mature deliberation, directed the Governor in Council at Bombay to return a civil answer to Monnajee, at the same time firmly declining to take any part in the contest in which he is at present involved.

40. We beg leave to refer to our proceedings of the annexed date, as containing the different papers which will tend to elucidate this subject, and a full account of the steps which the Poonah Government and Mahajee Sindia had taken to facilitate or retard the views of either of the brothers as communicated by Sir Charles Malet to the Government at Bombay.

41. We have the honor to lay before you, numbers in the packet, copies of letters received by the Governor in Council at Bombay from the Resident and Factors at Bussorah, and copies of all the papers that accompanied those letters, concerning the removal of the factory from Bussorah to the Island of Canrack until the *Bashaw* should think proper to make reparation for the insults offered to Great Britain in the persons of her subjects as a sense of the injury he must sustain in consequence of the removal of the British trade to another port

might induce him to offer. We shall not go into any detail on this subject as that you will doubtless have long since been made acquainted, not only with the occurrences that gave rise to the disputes and attended the intercourse with the *Bashaw* upon it, but with the actual departure of the Resident and Factors from Bussorah.

42. The intelligence received from Mr. Baldwin, and transmitted both from hence and Madras, was received at Bombay on the twentieth of June;

and it appearing to the Governor in Council at that
22nd July, No. 3. Presidency that there could not be a doubt as to the existence of the war with France, orders were issued to Lieutenant Colonel Hartly to take possession of the French settlement at Mahi; and the Chief

and Council at Surat were directed to secure the French
26th July, No. 15. Resident at that place, and send him and the other French inhabitants as prisoners to Bombay, whenever the season permitted. Instructions to send a force against Mahi had been previously given to Lieutenant Colonel Hartley by Lord Cornwallis.

Nizam.

43. The motives of the Nizam's march to Bider continue to be as much unexplained as when we last had the honour of addressing you. His Minister Azcem Ul Omrah has formally disavowed any hostile intentions against the Maratta Government, nor has any movement on the part of Sindia evinced that the Nizam's Minister had persuaded his master to move to Bider in consequence of any preconcerted plan between himself and the Maratta Chief. We have the pleasure to add that this explanation given by Sir Charles Malet to Nana Furnavese appears to have removed the jealousy which (we advised you by the *Tartar*) the Nizam's resolution to proceed to Bidder had excited at the Court of Poona, and induced the Peshwa to suspend those preparations which on the first opinion of His Highness's design indicated to be made.

44. His Highness, however, notwithstanding the insalubrity of the situation, and the deficiency of water at Bider gave orders, in compliance with the wishes of Azim Ul Omrah, for continuing the army at that place. Urged by

his dislike to Balajec Pundit, Azim Ul Omrah has supplied Sindia liberally with money, in return for his
12th July, No. 6. promised assistance in removing the present administration at Poonah; but Sindeah appears to be either unwilling or unable to fulfill his engagements, and having received the money has intimated to Azim Ul Omrah the necessity of waiting for a more favourable opportunity to effect the object to which he has already sacrificed so much.

45. In addition to the sum of thirty lacks of rupees advanced by Azim Ul Omrah to Sindia, he is said to be preparing a further sum of four or five lacks to be applied in the same way; and though repeated declarations have been made by Sir John Kennaway to the Minister of our fixed resolution not

to support him in these schemes suggested by his ambi-
Consn. 19th July. tion, and that the steps he is taking must unavoidably
No. 6. engage his master in a quarrel with the Mahratta Government, it is very possible that no considerations will check him in the career he is running, and that nothing short of a firm and solid reconciliation

between him and the Poona Minister, founded on an adjustment of their mutual differences, will re-establish the harmony between the two States.

46. Balajee Pundit, it is reported, has, in return for the inimical conduct of Azim Ul Omrah, instigated Ragojee Booslah to plunder some of the Nizam's villages in order to create a coolness between the latter and the Peshwah.

Consn. 12th July,
No. 6.

47. We further understand His Highness has resolved to punish Ragojee, who is a dependant of the Mahratta Government, without any previous application for redress to the Peshwah; and this will probably be considered at Poonah as an infraction of the engagements at present existing between the two Courts.

48. His Highness having intimated his design of proceeding against the Booslah unless satisfaction could be obtained by the mediation of the Company, he was acquainted by Mr. Stuart, Assistant to Sir John Kennaway, and now with His Highness at Bider, "that however inclined this Government might be to aid His Highness, the principles on which our conduct and Government were founded did not admit of such an interference; that being at peace with all the powers in India and desirous of continuing so, we could not preserve this system if we were to become mediators at the request of one party, as that would in fact be declaring war against the other; much less could we so far depart from our professions and maxims of Government were we in a hostile manner to second the claims of any power by joining in the attack of a potentate with whom the English were at peace."

Consn. 29th July,
No. 9.

49. By the treachery of a person employed, several papers purporting to be letters between Tippoo and Mulik Essau, who is subject to the Nizam's Government, have been put into the hands of Azim Ul Omrah. In these letters Mulik Essau is assured of protection and support against his sovereign, if he would acknowledge Tippoo as his superior, and deliver up the districts entrusted to his care to the Mysore Government.

50. This has caused some disturbance at the Court of Hyderabad; but as several of the papers seem to be forgeries, and as at all events the channel by which they have been received is one that should be distrusted, measures have been taken to induce Mulik Essau to go to Court; and upon his arrival the Minister, it is imagined, will take effectual steps to ascertain the truth in an affair of so much moment to his master.

Consn. 29th July,
No. 12.

51. The Minister continued for a considerable time to press the Nizam's claims on Kurnoul with the same perseverance that had been shewn previous to our last advices on this subject; nor did repeated refusals on our part to interfere between the Nizam and Tippoo produce any other effect on Azim ul Omrah than to induce a repetition of his request that we should alter our resolution.

52. In addition to the arguments he had urged for the purpose of obtaining our mediation, he some time since declared that, until the object of his master's wishes relative to the adjustment of the Kurnoul business was obtained, he should withhold his concurrence from the conclusion of the Guaranty Treaty.

Consn. 21st June,
No. 14.

53. In consequence of this intimation the Governor General directed the Resident at Hydrabad to remind the Minister that the proposition for a Guarantee Treaty did not originate with Lord Cornwallis, but that it was made to His Lordship by Hurry Punt and Azim ul Omrah himself, previous to the separation of the confederate armies; that His Lordship had then observed that it would be difficult to adjust a matter of so much nicety in the hurry of a camp life; and that it would be more advisable to defer the consideration of it untill all parties should be quietly settled at their respective homes.

Consn. 21st June,
No. 15.

54. Lord Cornwallis considered himself, therefore, as peculiarly called upon to bring forward a business that had been postponed at his request, and, feeling himself at all times anxious to manifest his desire of strengthening and cementing the union amongst the confederate powers, sketched out a draft of a Guarantee Treaty, having for its basis the Treaties of Hydrabad and Poonah, and consisting of distinct articles of stipulation, which His Lordship believed would be satisfactory to all parties; and, in so doing, he conceived that he was complying with the wishes of our Allies, and particularly with those of His Highness the Nizam as well as of his Minister.

55. If, however, His Lordship had so far mistaken the intentions of Azcem ul Omrah that instead of a Guarantee Treaty of a most strictly defensive nature, he supposed that the Company was to be bound to support him in his wild views of ambition, and in projects which he would not have ventured to have thought of before his head was turned by the successful event of the war, the Resident was instructed to notify to him that the Governor General had not the least desire to press a Guarantee Treaty upon him; and relinquishing all further discussion upon that subject, the Resident was to deliver the explanation of the defensive article in the existing treaties according to former orders, and, at the same time, to express in the clearest terms, that the Governor General did not consider himself engaged to defend any part of His Highness's territories, if the attack should be occasioned by the prosecution of his ill-founded claims upon Kurnoul.

56. By recent advices from Hydrabad, we have reason to imagine that the Minister will not adhere to his declaration relative to not signing the treaty, as, in a subsequent communication with the Resident, when it was represented to the Nizam that, if His Highness chose to accede to the treaty at all, it was expedient he should do so without delay, or as soon as an answer should be received concerning it from Poonah, Sir John Kennaway was led to hope from the Minister's conversation on the subject that no material objection would be made to concluding the business without urging the stipulation relative to Kurnoul.

57. This opinion was further strengthened by another occurrence. Azcem Ul Omrah had proceeded so far as to take a promissory note for 15 lacks of rupees from Alif Khan, one of the sons of the late Nabob, as a consideration, it was generally supposed, for being invested with the Government of Kurnoul, which had formerly been granted to his brother; but on a representation being made to His Highness of the tendency such a step must have to involve him in a dispute with Tippoo, and the certainty of his not receiving any assistance

Consn. 19th July,
Nos. 6, 7, 8.

from the Company in such a case, His Highness declared his intention of desiring Alif Khan to settle with Tippoo as his father had done, and that when Rundullah Khan (Alif Khan's uncle and Minister) arrived, as he was expected to do in a short time, His Highness would arrange the matter fully with him, and also enjoin Syed ud Dowlah, who had been dispatched to negotiate this affair with Tippoo's *vackeels* at Madras, to return immediately.

58. The Nizam, on the receipt of the Governor General's letter informing His Highness of the war in Europe, signified his readiness to support the Company, if they should desire his assistance, with the aid of his Government against the French, accompanying his offer with many expressions of regard for the interests of the English nation.

59. Application having been made to the Resident at Hyderabad by Meer Allum for an exemption from duties on goods from Benares, stating that although the surplus of them was intended for sale, yet that the greatest part was for the purpose of supplying the wants of the Minister and his own family, the application was complied with.

Consn. 24th May,
No. 46.

Marattas.

60. You are acquainted by our last dispatches with the steps that had been taken at the Court of Poonah relative to the *Seychoon*, whose cause had been so warmly espoused by Mahajee Sindea. The Minister, after an ineffectual struggle, was compelled to yield either to the power or the address of Sindea, and the latter has since carried his point in reinstating the *Seychoon* in the full possession of his rights.

61. Tippoo Sultaun having on some occasions mentioned his suspicions that the Peshwa encouraged and protected persons who are in the habit of committing depredations, and exciting disturbances on his frontier, and having specified, in particular, Annagoondy as one of the places at which the excess complained of had happened, Sir Charles Malet, by our desire, applied to the Poonah Government on the subject. The Minister not only denied any knowledge of the circumstances, but, as the best proof of his sincerity, expressed his desire that Tippoo might punish as he pleased any persons who, abusing the name of the Mahratta State or any of its members, committed disturbances in his country.

62. We have already acquainted you with the reason that has hitherto prevented the execution of the Guarantee Treaty by the Nizam. In addition to this a new and unexpected obstacle has arisen on the part of Behroo Punt, who at first delayed to make any and then gave an unsatisfactory and undecided answer to an application from the Resident at Poonah on the subject of the treaty.

63. He, however, at the same time, delivered to Sir Charles Malet a note expressive of the sense in which the Mahratta Government already received the article included in the Treaty of Poonah relative to the engagements for the mutual defence of the contracting parties, which coincided so nearly with the terms

Consn. 8th July,
No. 5.

of the treaty proposed, that we felt no inclination to press the execution of any additional stipulation to the same effect to which the
 Consn. 29th July, Mahratta Court might be averse; but we directed the
 No. 17. Resident to intimate that, although the declaration of
 Consn. 2 August, the *Durbar* was nearly tantamount to the stipula-
 No. 12. tion of the treaty itself, yet, as the latter tended more directly to specify and simplify the objects of the alliance, it would be particularly acceptable to this Government to see them adopted.

64. In answer to this representation by Sir Charles Malet the Minister declared that it was both his and the Court of Poona's sincere wish to act in the most perfect harmony with this Government;
 Consn. 9th August, that the declaration which he had given on the subject
 No. 35. of the Treaty of Guarantee had been made conformable to that disposition, but that as it was not entirely satisfactory to us he would give the articles themselves a reconsideration, and after divesting them of some obscurity which he suspected had proceeded from their passing through the idiom of so many different languages, he would communicate his sentiments further upon them.

65. The Minister having informed Sir Charles Malet that he had received information that the Nizam was increasing his levies, and that he had been permitted to procure recruits from the Carnatic, we have instructed the Resident to acquaint the Poona Government that
 Consn. 2d August, His Highness the Nizam has not received any such per-
 No. 12. mission, and that we should neither encourage or abet him in any schemes that could be hostile or even offensive to the Peishwa's Government.

66. Intelligence has been communicated to us by Sir Charles Malet that the second *kist* for the Mahrattas had arrived on the 1st of July at Darwar, and that care would be taken to prevent any unnecessary delay in the delivery of the receipts in order to prevent a repetition of those complaints on the part of
 Consn. 9 August, Tippoo which have so often and so urgently been addressed to us.
 No. 57.

67. It being an object of some importance to Tippoo Sultaun that his sons should be sent from Madras by Lord Cornwallis previous to His Lordship's departure for Europe, we have instructed Sir Charles Malet, should the third *kist* arrive before the time appointed by Lord Cornwallis for leaving the Coast, to expedite as far as may be in his power the receipt of it, and to forward an acquittal of all demands upon Tippoo in consequence of the stipulations concluded by the Treaty of Seringapatam, that His Lordship may be able to comply with Tippoo's wishes for liberating the Princes and sending them to their father.

Tippoo Sultaun.

68. We have little to communicate relative to Tippoo Sultaun which has not already been noticed.

69. The same complaints existing relative to the disturbances perpetually

taking place on the respective boundaries of the Nizam, Peishwa, and Tippoo as we have already had occasion to mention, and as we had reason to suppose that these eager and petty contentions were excited by the talookdars on each side for interested purposes, we suggested, in answer to various applications for adjusting those differences, the necessity of appointing proper *aumeens* to whose arbitration the settlement of the disputes in question might be committed.

70. To this proposal Tippoo assented, declaring at the same time that all the talooks mentioned in the treaty had been delivered up to the Nizam, and that their *Aumeens* had accordingly taken possession of them. He also informed Lord Cornwallis that, agreeable to His Lordship's suggestion, two *aumeens* of integrity and experience were ready to meet those appointed by the above mentioned powers at any place or time most convenient to all parties; and, should any difference arise, each of the persons thus selected should prepare his report on the information received from the inhabitants on the spot; and that the opinions of both were to be transmitted to the respective Governments for their final discussion and decision. It has been strenuously recommended by us to the Nizam, and he has acceded to the proposal and appointed an *aumeen* to carry it into execution.

Consn. 28th June, No. 13.

Consn. 24th May, Nos. 30-31.

Consn. 24th June, No. 1.

19th August, No. 48.

71. Tipoo having also expressed his wish that a similar mode should be adopted of adjusting the differences existing between the Company and him relative to some villages in the districts of Cauveripoor and Verrepatchee, we have recommended to the Government at Fort St. George to employ Lieutenant Macleod on this service.

72. We also desired that orders might be given to that officer to conclude every thing on the most liberal terms, both because Tippoo seemed very desirous of fulfilling the terms of the treaty, and the revenues of the ceded country proved fully equal to the amount at which they were rated in the schedule.

Consn. 1st July, No. 2.

73. We mentioned in our last dispatches (paragraph 37)^a that, from recent accounts given by persons who had escaped from confinement in Mysore, we had been led to suspect that, notwithstanding the assurances to the contrary, both from Tippoo and his *vakeels*, several English prisoners were still detained even in the capital. Letters were accordingly written both to Tippoo and his *vakeels* complaining of this violation of the treaty and requiring the immediate liberation of the persons, a list of whose names was forwarded.

Consn. 31st May, No. 2.

74. To this application we have received the most solemn assurances that there was not a single Englishman confined in his dominions to his knowledge, and that, particularly at Seringapatam, he had called the *Kelladar* before him and threatened him with death, should persons answering the description of those claimed be found in his custody after his repeated denials that any English prisoners were confined at Seringapatam.

Consn. 24th May, No. 28.

75. We have the honor to acquaint you that the Government at Fort

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St. George have received information from the Officer Commanding at Kistnagherry that, on the 10th of July last, a party belonging to Tippoo arrived at that place in charge of treasure for the payment of the third *kist*, in consequence of which instructions were given to inform the *vakeels* of Tippoo that the Company's officers could not receive the money sent, until information had arrived of the payment of the second *kist* to the Nizam and the Mahrattas.

76. The intelligence from the Mysore country as transmitted to us from time to time by the Government at Madras since our last advices will be found on our proceedings of the annexed dates.

Consns. 3 June.
1 July.
19th Do.
26th Do.
2 August.
12th Do.

Upper Provinces.

Sindia.

77. The situation of affairs in the country acquired by Sindia continues nearly as it was; as when we last had the honor of addressing you, although from his late successes against his rival Holcar, there is reason to imagine (unless this last mentioned Chief should receive effectual aid from the interposition of the Court of Poonah in his favor) that his late, sudden and unaccountable infraction of the treaty he had so recently concluded with Sindia's generals may produce a considerable change in the circumstances of these chiefs.

78. It had been imagined that Holcar had been influenced in what he did by the intrigues of the Court of Poonah; but the real cause seems to be the ungovernable and improper conduct of Mulhar Row, his son, who, by some inconsiderate acts of hostility, brought on an engagement between the armies, which terminated in the total overthrow of his father's forces.

79. Holcar has retreated into the province of Malwa and is at Indour. Scindia's generals had detached some troops to observe his motions; but there is little reason to imagine that either party will commit hostilities in the districts which constitute their mutual patrimony.

Cons. 8 July, No. 6.
Cons. 2 August,
No. 15.

80. Scindia has not pursued or otherwise molested him; but he has availed himself of the opportunity of crossing the Nurbuddah to draw his own forces nearer to Poonah, where the Ministry are endeavouring to effect an accommodation between the rival chiefs.

Consns. 21st June,
No. 16.
Consns. 28th June,
No. 38.
Consns. 2 August,
No. 15.

81. The intrigues so long carried on by Scindia in order to gain an ascendancy in the administration of the Peishwa's affairs seem now to have been relinquished, at least for the present; and it is imagined that after regulating some measures of foreign and domestic policy, and making such arrangements as he supposes will secure his permanent influence in the State, he will return to Indostan as soon as his finances which, by the neglect or rapacity of his officers, during his absence, have been much deranged, are in a situation to enable him to engage in any new enterprize.

Cons. 21 June,
No. 16.
Cons. 28 June,
No. 38.

82. Sindia must feel the necessity of his speedy return to Hindostan, if his concerns in that quarter are still the chief objects of his ambition. His revenues, we understand, have declined so rapidly in his absence that they are become greatly inadequate to the maintenance of his army; and to make certain provision for the payment of the corps under
 Cons. 2d August, Mr. De Boigne,⁴ he has been obliged to transfer to that
 No. 15. officer, in *jaidaad*, a district estimated at 27 lacks of rupees yearly collections, a measure of such dangerous tendency to his authority and security that nothing probably but the total want of other resources could have compelled him to adopt it.

83. The district thus assigned is upon the Vizier's frontier to the south-west of the Doaab; and, if it should ever be occupied by the whole corps whose subsistence is to be drawn from it, they might
 Cons. 2d August, prove troublesome neighbours; but of that circumstance
 No. 15. there is not the smallest probability unless in the case of its defection from Sindia; and if such an event should take place it would be more likely to conciliate than to provoke the Vizier, at least until it should have perfectly secured its independence.

84. We transmit, as a number in the packet, a survey made by Mr. Hunter (Surgeon to the Residency with Sindia) of the Resident's route to and from Ogeine, from Agra by the way of Gualior,
 Cons. 27th May, and from Ogicene by the way of Boondce through Malwa,
 Nos. 11, 12, 13. which we have reason to imagine will prove very useful additions to the knowledge already obtained of Indian geography, as these routes lay through countries hitherto little known.

The Nabob Vizier.

85. In the 87th paragraph of our letter dated the 18th of May, 1793, we acquainted you that we had been induced to assent to the request made by the Vizier that Hussien Reza Cawn and Rajah Tickait Roy might be permitted to come to the Presidency.

86. Having complied with the stipulation which had been previously made of their paying up all the money due from the Vizier
 Cons. 7th June, to the Company to the end of March, they left
 No. 15. Lucknow at the latter end of May, and they arrived here in the beginning of August.

87. We have the pleasure to observe to you that since their arrival in Calcutta, we have received advices from the Resident
 Cons. 9 August, of the payment of the entire sum due from His
 No. 58. Excellency the Vizier to the end of June.

Benares.

88. The acting Resident at Benares having communicated to us an account of some disturbances created there by Madhow Row, who resides in Benares as an agent of Nana Furnavese, and the steps
 Cons. 27th May, which he had taken to prevent a repetition of similar
 Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9. outrages, we sent copies of the different papers transmitted to us by Mr. Treves to the Resident at Poonah, who was at the

same time directed to inform Nana Furnavese of the accounts we had received of his *vakeel's* misconduct.

89. In answer to the representation made by Sir Charles Malet on this subject the Minister gave him the fullest assurances that his servant has been constantly directed to act in entire obedience to the Government of the country, and that he should never attempt to vindicate his conduct or support him in a deviation from these orders. He at the same time suggested it was possible some misconception or mistake had taken place which might be cleared up upon a more minute investigation of the business than had previously taken place; and that his final answer should be guided by the information he might then receive.

Assam.

90. In the 107 paragraph of our last advices we acquainted you that the Rajah Kistnarain, who had been for a considerable time a fugitive from Assam, had been induced from the confidence inspired by Captain Welsh's promises of protection to intimate his intention of returning to his country, an event which we were anxious to facilitate. This object has at length been obtained, and it was certainly desirable, as during the Rajah's absence no effectual steps could be taken for the future settlement of the country which would not be liable to be counteracted the moment the troops departed; and we have reason to hope that the kind treatment which the Rajah has experienced at our hands will not only bind him to our interests but make a due impression on the minds of the neighbouring Rajahs, and enable the Officer Commanding the detachment to settle such arrangements as will restore peace and order in all the western quarter of Assam.

91. After an investigation of the claims of Kistnanarain to the *raje* of Deringh it was found that his father had been a joint possessor of the districts to which the son declared himself entitled. The first step, therefore, was to convince Kistna Narain that he had no right in his own person to the entire of the districts to which he laid claims; and any difficulty that might have opposed such a conviction was in a great degree removed by the consciousness which he, in common with the other members of his family, must have felt that the dismemberment of their respective possessions by the Rajah of Assam has been the natural consequence of their disunion.

92. It was accordingly agreed that Hunhmarain, Bismarain, Sominder-narain, and Kessnarain should unite and support each other in the protection of those portions of the possessions of their mutual ancestors to which they were entitled; and a writing was drawn up specifying their respective shares and the order of succession, after which they were reinstated in the districts they had thus agreed to be the property of each of the contracting parties.

93. An oppressive custom having hitherto obtained of furnishing the Rajah of Assam with a number of men from Deringh for the purpose of completing his levies, and the people having represented that this was a perpetual source of injury to the natives of Deringh, a pecuniary compensation fully adequate to any advantage that could be derived from the use of

so destructive a privilege was offered to the *Surge Deo*, who, influenced by those immediately about his person, and being himself from a perpetual state of imbecility unable to form any opinion, refused to comply with, a request in itself as reasonable on the part of the people of Deringh as it would eventually have been advantageous to himself.

94. We have therefore directed Captain Welsh to acquaint the *Surge Deo* that we never would support him in this oppressive mode of levying men, nor take any further concern in his favour, should he continue to persevere in demanding it.

Cons. 10th June.
No. 13.

95. The *purgunnah* of Kamroop has been long the subject of dispute between the Raja of Assam and the Narain family, and has been alternately plundered by both parties. The *Buroo Fogan*,⁵ who had charge of the whole district, being an infirm old man, and unable from indisposition to pay the attention to business which the state of the country required, the officer commanding the detachments has, for the present, placed the government in the hands of Bisna Narain, untill from a minute investigation of the papers relative to the real right to possession it may be ascertained whether the country belongs to the Rajah or to the Narain family.

96. The armed force employed by Kistna Narain, consisting chiefly of *burkundosses* whose depredations in Deringh had struck so much terror into the minds of the inhabitants, have been, by the advice of Captain Welsh (which has received our fullest concurrence), dismissed from his service by the Rajah. But, as the letting such a banditti loose in a country where they had already been guilty of various outrages might have been productive of dangerous consequences, they were sent under a guard to Rungpore, to be there paid their respective arrears, disarmed and disbanded.

97. It having been suggested by the Officer Commanding in Assam that the charge of the Candahar Chokey should be placed in the hands of the Commissioner for Cooch Behar, who was the servant of the Company in the vicinity of that place, we directed Mr. Bruce to proceed to Goalparah for that purpose; and the charge of the Candahar Chokey⁶ was in consequence given up to him on the 9th of July.

Cons. 26th July.
No. 26.

Napaul.

98. We have the honor to transmit to you in the packet a copy of a letter which we have written to Lord Macartney, His Majesty's Ambassador at the Court of Pekin, for the purpose of acquainting him with the circumstances that happened in the conventions between the Chinese and the Rajah of Napaul.

Cons. 26th July.
No. 1.

99. We also transmit as numbers in the packet copies of letters received from the Grand Lama and from the *Chief General* acknowledging their obligation to us for d. to interfere in support of the Rajah at that period.

Cons. 12th July.
Nos. 14 & 15.

Miscellanea.

100. In consequence of the intelligence received from Mr. Baldwin that war had been declared by the French against Great Britain on the 1st of February, 1793, immediate orders were issued by Lord Cornwallis to the Town Major⁷ to take possession of all ships lying in this river which belonged to the French. We transmit as numbers in the packet lists of the vessels and other property seized on this occasion.

101. A party of Europeans was on the same day detached from hence, to be reinforced by a battalion of sepoys from Barrackpore, the whole under the command of Major Duncan, for the purpose of taking possession of the French settlement at Chandernagore, which was effected without any opposition before the next morning. The directions given to the officer commanding the troops, and a copy of his letter subsequent to the capture, will make numbers in the packet; and for the instructions sent to Mr. Birch, whom we appointed Superintendant at Chandernagore, we beg leave to refer you to the copies of our correspondence mentioned in our letter from the Foreign Department⁸.

102. Advice was sent by our orders to the Superintendant at Prince of Wales Island, and the Andamans, of the intelligence we had received, and warning them to be on their guard against an enemy.

103. We enclose as a number in the packet copy of a letter from Major Kyd, Superintendant at the Andamans, relative to the state of defence in which he had placed that island on receiving the intelligence of a war with France, together with some additions in the plan of defence that he suggested to Lieutenant William whom he left in command on his departure from thence.

104. Orders were sent also to the civil servants in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Orissa whose stations were in the vicinity of any French factory or house of trade to take possession of all places belonging to the French. They were strictly enjoined to protect all private property as well as the persons of such natives of France as they might find in the factories or houses taken, granting paroles to such persons as they deemed proper to leave at liberty, and transmitting all others to the Residency by the earliest opportunities. For the amount of the property which was seized in compliance with this order, we refer you to our Foreign Dispatch of this date, in which you will also observe the regulations we have thought it necessary to cause to be enforced for the government of the French dependencies while they continue in our possession.

105. Several merchants, owners of ships and captains employed in the private trade of the country having, upon the arrival of the intelligence, requested Letters of Marque and Reprisal, we applied to the Advocate General for his opinion whether the Governor General in Council had power under the Company's Charters or the existing Acts of Parliament to grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal against the French in the present war, and if not whether

we could grant any and what commission for a similar or at all corresponding purpose.

106. From his answer, a copy of which we transmit as a number in the packet, it appeared that we had no right to grant Letters of Marque and Repisal, but that, by the Charter of the 26th of His present Majesty, the Company obtained powers which might be legally exercised in the three Presidencies by issuing commissions in the name and under the seal of the Company to the commanders and other officers of any vessel they might think proper to employ to act offensively against any power at war with Great Britain within the limits to which the authority of their Governments extends. We were also informed that we might enter into such stipulations with the owners and commanders of such vessels as we pleased, provided the same were not repugnant to the laws of nations, or to treaties by which the British Empire is bound and governed; and it was recommended to us that security should be taken to make full satisfaction for any damage or injury they should commit in breach of the laws of nations or of Great Britain, or in violation of the leagues and treaties by which His Majesty and the Company are bound with other powers.

107. We accordingly determined to issue these commissions, and take the proposed securities under certain conditions and according to the forms, of which we have the honor to enclose copies for your information.

108. We have now brought down the detail of our proceedings to the 12th of August, on which day the Governor General delivered in the following minute previous to His Lordship's departure from hence for the Coast.

"I have the honor to inform the Board that the ships destined to carry troops and stores to the coast of Coromandel are now ready, and according to the intention which I communicated some time ago
 Cons. 12th August, No. 5. to the members individually, I propose to embark to-morrow for the Carnatic, in order to endeavour by my presence to give every energy that may be possible to the execution of the measures that have been already determined on for reducing Pondicherry before the setting in of the monsoon upon that Coast.

"It is proper that the Board should be acquainted that I have directed Lieutenant Colonel Ross, Adjutant General of the King's troops and Military Secretary, Major Scott, Deputy Adjutant General of this establishment, and Lieutenant Colonel Shelly and Captains Apsley and Robinson, Aides-de-Camp, to accompany me; and having during the late war received the most essential assistance from the attention and abilities of Mr. Cherry, the Persian Translator, I must request the approbation of the Board for his attending me likewise on the present service that I may be the better enabled during my stay in the Carnatic to conduct the correspondence and intercourse with the native powers with facility and propriety.

"Having already experienced on a former occasion the steady and honorable support of this Board in carrying into execution the general system which has been established during the period of my Government for the management of the internal business of this country, and having the satisfaction of agreeing most perfectly with my colleagues on all the material points that can come under discussion with the Courts of Hyderabad and Poonah,

and with Tippoo Sultaun, I now leave the Presidency with the utmost confidence that the public service can in no degree suffer by my absence."

109. The *Triton* Indiaman had been dispatched from Fort St. George for the purpose of conveying His Lordship to that Presidency, there being reason to apprehend that the *Woodcot* which had previously come hither for the purpose of being repaired could not be got ready for sea in time for Lord Cornwallis to proceed upon that ship; and the *Triton* now returned to the Coast.

Fort William,
the 13th of August, 1793.

We have the honor to be,
Honorble Sirs,
Your most faithful humble servants.

(Per *Triton*.)

23

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 28 OCTOBER 1793

Surrender of Pondicherry—The Raja of Vijayanagaram deprived of his estate—The Raja of Travancore's remissness in the payment of dues—Surrender of Mahe—Disputed possession of certain taluks between the Raja of Coorg and Tipu—The Nizam willing to sign the Treaty of Guarantee and also not to interfere in the affairs of Karnul—Cornwallis's parting advice to the Nawab Vazir to reform his administration.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for the affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. In our letter dated the 13th of August we had the honor of communicating to you the preparatory steps which had been taken by us and by the Government at Fort St. George for the reduction of Pondicherry.

2. We have now the pleasure of congratulating you upon the surrender of that fortress on the 23d of August after a few days' siege.

3. We transmit, as numbers in the packet, copies of Colonel Braithwaite's
 Consn. 23d August, dispatches, including the detailed account of the operations
 No. 23. of the army under his command, and the
 Consn. 30 August, correspondence which passed during the siege between
 No. 1. that officer and Colonel Chermont, Commandant of
 Consn. 6th September, Pondicherry.
 ber, No. 1.

4. A sufficient garrison under the command of Colonel Floyd had been left in the fort, and the remainder of the troops received orders to return to their respective cantonments with the least possible delay.

5. Your ships the *Royal Charlotte*, *Warley* and *Triton*, which, in our last letter, we informed you, had, in consequence of a representation from Admiral Cornwallis, been detained for the purpose of assisting to blockade Pondicherry, proceeded in company on their voyage to China soon after the capitulation took place.

6. We acquainted you in the 25th paragraph of our letter on the 13th August that His Highness the Nabob of Arcot had, at the request of the Madras Government, readily assented to furnish the army when assembling to carry on the siege of Pondicherry with provisions and draft cattle; and we have now the pleasure to add that His Highness, in consequence, issued the strictest orders to his officers in the several districts, remitted all duties upon articles passing to the camp *bazar*, and took every precaution to render the supplies regular and abundant.

7. We acquainted you in our letter by the *Tartar*¹, paragraphs 2d to 6th, of the refractory conduct of Zemindar of Vizianagram, and of the little prospect there was of obtaining the liquidation of the just demands of the Company without having recourse to coercive measures. We have been since advised by the Madras Government that they had (under the authority we gave them) taken possession of the zemindary, and had determined that it should be held by the Company until the demands upon it were fully discharged. They also noticed to us that this measure had been carried into execution without any opposition from the Zemindar.

8. We have the honor of transmitting to you, as numbers in the packet, copies of several letters that have passed between the Government at Fort Saint George and the Chief and Council at Masulipatam relative to the debts of Mobaruk ul Dowla, son of the late Hussien Ally Khan, which will fully inform you in regard to the affairs of that family and the state of those funds, from whence the Government at Fort Saint George had, in some degree, guaranteed the payment of the various creditors of Mobaruk ul Dowlah.

Bombay.

9. In paragraph 41 of our letter, dated the 13th of August, we had the honor of acquainting you that we had then received accounts from the Bombay Government mentioning the intended departure of the Resident and Factor from Busorah to the Island of Carrack in consequence of the ill treatment which they had experienced from the *Bashaw* of Bagdat.

10. We now lay before you the subsequent letters from the Resident and Factor to the Bombay Government, in which they stated their proceedings from the date of their preceding communications to the time at which they removed from Busorah. For the reasons already communicated to you, we shall not now enter into any detail on this subject and the [that] rather as you will have received from the Resident and Factor at Busorah all the information we could furnish,

Consn. 27 Septem-
ber, No. 3.

Consn. 13 Septem-
ber, Nos. 1, 2,
3.

Consn. 19 August,
Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8.

11. In the 24 paragraph of our letter by the *Tartar*, we acquainted you that an agreement had been entered into between the Government of Bombay and the Rajah of Travancore, by which the latter engaged to deliver five thousand candies of pepper in liquidation of the military arrears due from him on account of Colonel Hartly's detachment. Of this quantity, however, as appears from Mr. Hutchinson's letter, making number in the packet, only two thousand candies had been received in May last; and there is great reason to apprehend, from all the conduct of the Rajah and his *Dewan* hitherto, that the future deliveries will not be made conformably to the terms of the contract. The correspondence between Mr. Farmer and Major Dow, now sent, will shew that those gentlemen have in vain endeavoured to convince the Raja and his Minister of the injustice and ingratitude of this breach of their engagements.

12. In the 64, 65 and 66 paragraphs of our letter by the *Tartar*, we communicated to you a representation which had been made to the Bombay Government by the merchants trading to, and from, that Presidency complaining of the piracies of the Malwans. We also informed you that we had directed reparation to be demanded for the past, and pointed out the means for the prevention of similar aggressions in future.

13. We have now the honour to lay before you, as a number in the packet, copies of different letters from the agents of the Malwan Rajah who were ordered to proceed to Bombay for the purpose of settling all disputes on the subject, and we are happy to have it in our power to add that the Malwans have not renewed their depredations.

Consn. 27 September, No. 2.

14. In the 42nd paragraph of our letter of the 13th. of August, we had the honor of informing you of the orders that had been sent to the Supravisor on the Malabar Coast to acquaint Lieutenant Colonel Hartley with our intention to attack the French possessions on this side of India, and to direct him to employ the troops under his command in the reduction of Mahi and its dependencies on the Malabar Coast.

15. We have now the pleasure to lay before you copies of a letter received from Lieutenant Colonel Hartley notifying to us that Mahi had been surrendered to him, and enclosing a copy of the articles of capitulation which he had granted to the garrison.

Consn. 19 August, Nos. 10 to 13 inclusive.

16. We transmit copies of several letters and their enclosures from the Supravisor on the coast of Malabar relative to certain disputes which had arisen between the Coorga Rajah and Tipoo on the subject of their respective boundaries.

Consn. 21 October, Nos. 2 to 10 inclusive.

17. As appears from those papers, it is asserted by Tipoo that Amcera, Soolia, and Enwara Seemy² were not included in his cession to the Company, and therefore do not belong to them. On the other hand, the Koorga Rajah insists that those districts form part of his ancient hereditary dominions, that he was in possession of them at the commencement of hostilities, that they are included in the Company's guarantee, and that he will not give them up.

18. Captain Murray, an officer reported to be well qualified for the duty, has been dispatched to the Rajah by the Commissioners on the Malabar.

Coast with full powers to reconcile (if possible) the claims of the contending parties. How far this may be practicable we cannot yet foresee, as each obstinately persists in asserting his right to the districts in question.

19. A letter has also been addressed to Tippoo by the Supravisor desiring him to send an officer to meet Captain Murray for the purpose of adjusting the boundaries between the Coorga country and his own, at the same time stating the districts of Amera, Soulea, and Ersuwara Samy, as included under the general denomination of the talook Coorga in the schedule given in by him previous to the conclusion of the Treaty of Seringapatam. To this letter he has returned an answer as follows:—

“I have received your letter and understand the contents. It is therein written that the talookas of Amera and Soulea and Ersawara Samy hath, from ancient times, been included in Coorg, and that the said country hath, according to the stipulations, become part of the territories of the English East India Company, notwithstanding which servants of the *Ahmedy Sircar*, having arrived in the said talookas, create disturbances, and make use of great severities towards the ryots there.

“To expatiate anew, and enter into future discussions, on what is clearer than the sun is not requisite; and no doubt you also, Sir, will be, after the ascertainment of all particulars, fully convinced that the talookas of Amera; and Soulea hath, for these five or six centuries, or even more, been and remained included in the country of the Bunder or part of Coorgal, and that Bunder appertains to, and makes part of, the *Ahmedy Sircar*, and the talooka of Ersawara Samy stands, as usual, included in the talooka of Beloor, and hath, for hundreds of years past, been and made part of the country of Seringapatam, and the said talooks have accordingly from ancient time been held by the *Ahmedy Sircar*. It astonished me that you, Sir, should, at the instance of wicked and interested people, have written without ascertainment of the fact.

“As between the *Ahmedy Sircar* and the *Sircar* of the Hon'ble English Company the trust and firmest friendship is established; and that the Coorga country is included in the English Company's *Sircar*, you may therefore be certain that the servants of the *Ahmedy Sircar* will never enter therein, placing full reliance on which you should not attend to the false assertions of the people of Coorga, but paying, on the contrary, a mutual attention to the treaty of peace, act in such manner that the friendship existing between the two Governments may daily increase.”

Tippoo.

20. We had the pleasure of communicating to you, in paragraph 67 of our letter dated the 13 of August, the intelligence we had received relative to the payment of the second *kist* to the Allies. We have since had authentic accounts from the Assistant to the Resident at Hyderabad that the money had arrived on the 28th of August at Keerpah, and that as soon as it should have been examined, His Highness the Nizam's receipt for it would be delivered to Tippoo's officers.

Consn. 18 October,
No. 6.

21. We have also received intelligence of the arrival of the third (and last) *kist* for the Allies at Gurrumcoondah, and that orders had been given by the Nizam to send the proper receipts for it, whenever it might arrive at Keerpah, of which last event we have not as yet received any intelligence.

22. The intelligence from the Mysore, communicated to the Government at Madras by the officers to whom this trust has been assigned, will be found in the annexed papers forming numbers in the packet. From these it would seem that Tippoo is at present chiefly occupied in reducing to obedience the refractory polygars.

Nizam.

23. In paragraph 43 of our letter dated the 13 of August, we laid before you such intelligence as we had received respecting the march of the Nizam to Bidder, of which the real motives are still unknown.

24. In the same letter (paragraph 54) we stated to you that the Nizam had required us to aid him in his views on Kurnoul as the condition of his assent to the Guarantee Treaty, but that we had peremptorily refused to take any part whatever in the dispute. His Highness has since declared his readiness to subscribe to the Treaty, and the Minister has repeatedly assured our Resident of his master's intention to relinquish all interference between the competitors for the succession of Kurnoul.

Marattas.

25. We had the honor of acquainting you, in the . . . paragraph of our last letter, with the proceedings of the Poonah *Durbar* and the intrigues of Sindia relative to the succession to the Guzerat territory, which had been disputed between the brothers, Monajec and Govind Rao, sons of the late Futtch Sing.

26. The Resident at Poonah applied to Marquis Cornwallis for his directions as to the conduct proper to be pursued. His Lordship declined giving any decision at the eve of his departure for England on a question of so much importance, but referred it to the consideration of Sir J. Shore and the succeeding Government, a copy of whose instructions to Sir C. W. Malet will be sent to you in a subsequent letter.

Miscellanea.

27. We have the honor to transmit to you, as a number in the packet, a copy of a letter written by Marquis Cornwallis to the Nabob Vizier previous to His Lordship's departure from Madras, recommending to His Highness, in

the most urgent terms, the necessity of reforming the administration of his finances and retrenching his own personal expences.

28. We also transmit, as a number in the packet, a copy of a letter from the Dutch Government at Colombo soliciting aid in consequence of their apprehension of being attacked by the French from Pondicherry. The success of the English arms against the French settlements in general, and against that of Pondicherry in particular, having removed the chief foundation for these fears, we shall write to them briefly acknowledging the receipt of their letter, and promising them our aid, should it be hereafter necessary.

Fort William,
the 28th of October, 1793.

We have the honor to be,
Honorable Sirs,
Your most faithful humble servants.

24

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 5 NOVEMBER 1793

The Gaikwad succession and the Treaty of Salbai: the Company not bound to guarantee the integrity of Gujarat as Govind Rao had voluntarily surrendered to the Peshwa—Claims for chauth in respect of Surat—Measures for the protection of mercantile trade.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Although the short period which has elapsed since Sir John Shore's accession to this Government has afforded few subjects of sufficient consequence to require our bringing down the detail to the present date, yet we think it necessary to take this early opportunity of communicating to you our decision regarding the part proper for this Government to take in the case that has occurred with respect to the Guickwar territory, the question arising from which was referred to us by the late Governor General a short time before His Lordship's departure for Europe.

2. Sir John Shore's letter to the Resident at Poonah, who, as we have already mentioned, had applied for instructions on this occasion to the Marquis Cornwallis, was expressed as follows:—

“The near approach of His Lordship's embarkation for Europe having prevented his giving a final decision on the important questions submitted to him, I now transmit you my sentiments for your information and guidance.

Consn. 1st Novem-
ber, No. 48.

“The object of the 8th article of the Treaty of Salbye was to protect Futteh Sing from the resentment of the Mahrattas, and his territories from their encroachment; and hence our right to interfere for preserving the integrity of that province as connected with the above object is derived, and cannot be disputed; but the obligation and propriety of exercising that right are distinct considerations dependent upon circumstances.

“It clearly appears from the very satisfactory information which you have afforded us that Govind Row, previous to the demise of Manajee, had entered into terms with the Poonah Administration for the expulsion of his brother, and that, in return for the assistance which he was to receive, he had stipulated by written agreements the surrender of a large portion of his principality; that even after the death of Manajee, apprehending the intrigues of Futteh Sing's widow, he renewed his negotiations with the *Durbar* upon the grounds of his former concessions, which, in the expectation of immediate assistance, he appeared willing to abide by.

“In all these transactions Govind Row certainly acted without your previous knowledge and concurrence and in so doing has exposed himself to the extortions of the Poonah Government. When he placed himself in the power of the Mahrattas, he must be understood to have withdrawn himself from the protection of our guarantee, and the obligation arising from it can, on no principle, bind us to incur any serious hazards for the purpose of relieving him from embarrassments in which he has involved himself without our sanction or participation. I conclude, therefore, that our interference for preserving the integrity of Guzarat by supporting Govind Row against the claims of the Poonah Administration cannot be deemed obligatory, and that it should not be prosecuted by any argument or upon any principles that may bind us to persevere in it, either at the hazard of a rupture with the Poonah Court, or of disgrace by relinquishing its object.

“If the transfer of the right of the *Choutiea* of Surat be tried by the same rules, I do not see upon what grounds we can oppose it. If the concessions of Govind Row be admitted in any degree, they must be admitted in their fullest extent; and if he had a right to assign any portion of his territories, he may surrender his claim to *Choutiea* in that city. It must be our care, as it is our duty, that the exercise of it by the Mahratta delegate does not exceed the customary limits to our prejudice, and that he does not infringe upon the rights which we possess.

“I am very sensible that, in reply to the conclusions which I have stated, it may be urged that the concessions of Govind Row are not now in any degree voluntary; they were originally extorted by his necessities, and it is to be remembered that the expulsion of his brother Monajee was the primary object

of Govind Row's negotiation with the Poonah *Durbar*, and the source of all his present embarrassments. Whether that negotiation originated in his application, or in their promises, is immaterial; his first intercourse with you does not appear to have taken place until he thought the Mahratta assistance could be dispensed with, and that our interposition would establish him in the Government of Guzerat without submitting to the performance of an agreement which he had contracted under different circumstances, when he was under no obligation to make them. This distinction is a fair deduction from the circumstances of the case, and the true principle, in my opinion, upon which the obligation of our interference depends.

"I entirely agree with you in opinion that, upon general principles of policy, it is certainly our interest to promote, as far as possible, consistently with good faith, the independence of all the great members of the Mahratta State, and that the interference of the English to protect a family with whom they were allied from the usurpations of the Mahrattas would tend to give them popularity and reputation with the native powers, and augment their confidence in our good faith. To these considerations may also be added the expediency of preventing that accumulation of power over Surat which the Peshwah would possess by the acquisition of the Guickwar *Choutteca* within, and of the territory without, the city.

"But these considerations would not justify our interposition at the risque of a serious disagreement with the Mahrattas, and the consequential dissolution of those engagements which connect the Mahrattas, Nizam and ourselves in a mutual defence against Tippoo.

"That the conduct of the Mahrattas towards us in concluding this business without any communication with you upon it must be deemed improper and unfriendly under the most liberal construction cannot be denied; and I, therefore, think the transaction should not be suffered to pass over altogether in silence, unless they should so far have receded from their claims upon Govind Row as to render any representation to them, in your opinion, no longer expedient or necessary.

"Repeating, therefore, which I have already premised, that we are by no means to commit ourselves to go any serious lengths, I am of opinion that you should enter into a discussion of the 8th article of the Treaty of Salbye with the Minister, without any reference, however, to Sindiah. His rapacity in participating in the dismemberment of Guzerat has, in fact, excluded him from undertaking the performance of his engagements of guaranty, if an appeal to him in that character were necessary; but, setting aside this consideration, which does not indeed apply, and which he would perhaps without hesitation disregard, I consider him as by no means likely to take any conciliatory part in a discussion between us and the Poonah Government.

"The object of the proposed discussion should be to convince the Minister that we have good grounds to complain of his conduct, but it must not be pushed so far as to convey against him the imputation of a violation of the treaty.

"It is probable that, in the course of the discussion, an advantage may be taken for obtaining some point that may contribute essentially to the secu-

rity of Surat, or to the relief of Govind Row ; and at all events, the establishing a grievance with the Mahrattas, although of no higher a nature than that of a slight, will be, in itself, an advantage that may, on some future occasion, prove convenient, as they never fail to avail themselves of all opportunities for recapitulating old injuries, whether real or pretended.

"The intimate knowledge of the Mahratta character and politics which you possess will suggest, with superior information, the arguments by which the discussion is to be supported, but it may be necessary to add my sentiments upon two points: first, that although it necessarily results from the principles which I have laid down that Govind Row's application for our interference should be answered by the explanations given upon this point, I leave it to you to decide upon the necessity or propriety of communicating them to him. Secondly, that, if any circumstances should have occurred to render it advisable to postpone the discussion with the Minister either on the grounds of injury, to Govind Row's interest or otherwise, I leave you at full liberty to determine upon this point.

"The President and Council of Bombay have been referred to the communication which they may receive from you respecting Surat, with a request that they would attend to them. The principle adopted on this point naturally suggests a revocation of the orders for opposing the transfer of the *Choutieca*, but I leave it to your judgment to determine when it should be issued."

3. A letter, conformable to the intimation conveyed in the last paragraph of the foregoing, has been written to the Government at Bombay, directing that particular attention might be paid to such communications as they might receive from the Resident at Poonah on this subject.
- Consn. 1st November, from No. 24 to No. 47D inclusive.

Miscellanea.

4. We transmit, as numbers in the packet, copies of a letter from Sir John Kennaway, Resident at Hyderabad, conveying his resignation of that office, and of the answer which we ordered to be written to it.
- Consn. 25th October, No. 1.
Consn. 1st November, No. 5.

5. The able and judicious conduct of this gentleman in many situations of difficulty and embarrassment has been equally honorable to himself and advantageous to the interests of his employers ; and it is with sincere concern we observe that he has been obliged to relinquish his situation on account of the prejudicial effects of the climate upon his constitution.

6. We have appointed Captain W. Kirkpatrick, whose services have already on frequent occasions introduced him to your favorable notice, to succeed to the office of Resident at Hyderabad, to which Court he will accordingly proceed without delay.
- Consn. 1st November, No. 6.

7. Several ships and vessels employed in carrying on the private trade of this country having been recently captured by French privateers, we received the most pressing applications from the merchants residing under our protec-

tion for the equipment of a naval force sufficient to guard their commerce from further depredation.

8. Satisfied as we were of the reasonableness of their claims as well as of the truth of their representations we nevertheless hesitated to put the Company to an expence which the arrival of an armed force from Europe might render unnecessary.

9. No naval reinforcements, however, having yet arrived from Europe, and the season being now at hand when the trade eastward commences, we have at length been reduced to the alternative of either incurring the expence of the equipment solicited, or of submitting to the temporary annihilation of this branch of commerce, on the uninterrupted state of which the produce of your opium sales most materially depends.

10. We have therefore resolved to fit out a force, of which three of the Indiamen now here are to constitute the principal strength; and we have endeavoured so to allot the vessels that, whilst we render an essential benefit to the trading interest of this country and secure a fair sale to the opium, we trust we shall not retard the return of such of your ships as we mean to employ in this service, since, owing either to their present destination, or to their places in the order of sailing homeward, every advantage that is expected from their appearance in the Streights [Straits] will have been obtained previous to the calculated period of their final departure from hence with cargoes for Europe.

11. Another consideration that has contributed to confirm us in our preference of Indiamen for this service to vessels belonging to private traders, even though these last were of sufficient force, is that the expence of fitting out an Indiaman for such an expedition will be considerably lower, while the time necessary for the preparation will also be much shorter.

12. We have not however wholly excluded country vessels in this occasion, both because the employing one or two of that description, who happen now to be nearly ready for sea, will not retard the general equipment, and because their force being nearly equal to that of an Indiaman will preclude the necessity of detaching an additional number of the latter ships.

13. The terms upon which we are offered those ships that we may possibly judge it necessary to employ, at the same time that (compared with the rates formerly demanded) they are by no means exorbitant, strongly evince the eagerness of the mercantile part of the community to procure protection for the general trade even at the loss or diminution of private and individual emolument.

14. We have the honour to transmit, as a number in the packet, a copy of the Governor General's minute on this subject, in which the reasons are detailed that have led us to the adoption of the present measure.

Fort William,
5th of November, 1793.

We have the honor to be.

(*Per Queen Charlotte, cutter.*)

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 16 NOVEMBER 1793

Measures taken for the protection of private trade against the depredations of French cruisers.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for the affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Your Honorable Court have been already apprized of the motives which induced us to fit out an armament for the protection of the trade of this country against the depredations of the French cruisers; and we trust that the necessity will appear as urgent to you as it did to us, and that the measures which we have adopted will meet with your approbation.

2. The object of the present address is to convey to you the latest possible information on the state of the armament.

3. The *William Pitt*, *Houghton*, *Britannia*, and *Pigot* are those amongst your chartered ships destined for this service. The *Britannia* has been supplied with eighteen pounders, and the two first named vessels carry twelve. In this destination you will observe a deviation from our original plan by the addition of the *Britannia*. The reasons which induced the alteration were, summarily, a consideration that the *Britannia* belonged exclusively to the Company and might be detained without the expence of demurrage; but, more particularly, a consideration of her superior force, and because, upon further information, we learnt that the *Pigot* was an indifferent sailer, and might, on this account, delay the expedition, and impede the object of it. In the original selection of this ship, we were guided by considerations of convenience arising from her destination to Bencoolen. She will, however, accompany the squadron, from which she may be detached to Bencoolen in pursuit of her voyage, if she should be unable to keep Company with the other ships, or whenever her assistance may be dispensed with. She carries the stores appropriate for the use of your settlement at Fort Marlbro'.

4. The *Nonsuch*, belonging to Captain Canning, has been engaged, and we believe that no fitter vessel could have been provided for the service wanted. The terms are as moderate as we could obtain.

5. A small vessel of about seventy tons, which the Government had previously taken up for the service of the Andamans, has been added as a tender to the squadron; and we mean, if practicable, to avail ourselves of one of the Bombay cruisers, now supposed to be at Prince of Wales Island, or any vessel belonging to the Company which may happen to be there.

6. We are in hopes that the equipment will be able to leave the river by the 25th of this month; and we entertain no doubt that it will be in all respects adequate to its professed object.

7. Of the number of the French vessels cruizing in the Indian seas, we have no further particular information than what we have already communicated to your Honorable Court, excepting intelligence of two privateers, one of forty and one of thirty-two guns, which are reported to have been off Ceylon, about the end of September. From the difficulty of retaining their station there from the month of October to that of January, the declared object of the commanders, we conclude that their destination will probably be towards the Eastern Streights.

8. We have the honor to forward for your information a copy of an application from the commanders of the Indiamen ordered upon this service with our resolutions upon it.

We have the honor to be,
Honorable Sirs,
Your most obedient and most humble servants,

Fort William,
16th of November, 1793.

J. Shore/Peter Speke/Wm. Cowper.

26

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 30 NOVEMBER 1793

Cornwallis's views on the Raja of Travancore's claim to certain taluks ceded by Tipu—Conclusion of the Treaty of Guarantee considered not essential as the intentions of the contracting parties were made sufficiently clear during the negotiations—Oudh kists paid regularly after Raza Khan became Minister—Bright prospects of amicable settlement of the dispute between Govind Rao Gaikwad and the Peshwa.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Our last advices transmitted by the *Queen Charlotte* cutter were dated the 5th instant, and we received on the 18th, on the arrival of your ship *Kent*, your dispatches of the 25th of June, 1793.

2. We have now the honor to reply particularly to such parts of your dispatches as demand our attention, avoiding for the sake of perspicuity the recapitulation of those paragraphs which contain acknowledgements only of former advices or orders and resolutions upon subjects not requiring further information. We shall, at the same time, notice the substance of the orders replied to, with a reference to the paragraphs containing them.

3. We shall communicate to the Resident at Poonah your intentions to procure a model of a first rate ship of war for the Peshwah, that he may inform that Court accordingly.

4. No further proceedings have been held on the subject of the *Arab*
 Para. 11. snow captured by Captain Biron.

5. We observe with attention your directions on the eventual claims of
 Sindiah, or any other members of the Mahratta State, in consequence of the
 Peshwah's assumption of the office of *Vakeel ul Mutluck*,
 Para. 14. if any claims should be preferred on this ground pre-
 judicial to the British interests; and we shall, of course, in that case, be guided
 by the instructions of Lord Cornwallis to Major Palmer¹ under date the 9th
 October, 1791, which have obtained the sanction of your approbation. The
 acknowledgement of the office and title claimed by the Peshwah is a subject
 which we shall probably soon have before us for discussion.

6. We shall address the Madras Government on the subject of their com-
 petency to provide from their increasing resources the
 Para. 24. fund for discharging the *peshcush* due to the Nizam
 on account of the Northern Sircars.

7. We are sorry it is not yet in our power to gratify your expectations
 of full information regarding the ceded countries on the Malabar Coast as
 the general report of the Bengal Commissioners is not yet arrived. We have
 no doubt that this report, the daily arrival of which we
 Para. 36. have reason to hope, will contain ample and satisfactory
 details on every subject connected with the object of the Commission, and that
 it will enable us to place in a connected view all matters of importance to your
 interests on the west of India.

8. From a memorandum communicated by Marquis Cornwallis from
 Madras to Sir John Shore, we understand that he considered the proprietary
 right of the three small talooks belonging to the Rajah of Travancore, and
 included in the statement of Tippoo's cessions to the Company, too doubtful
 to serve as a ground for persisting in the claim upon Tippoo for a compensation
 for them. At the same time, he thought they should be left in the possession
 of the Rajah of Travancore, referring to the report of the Malabar Commis-
 sioners for the reasons in support of his opinion.

9. We are happy to receive your approbation of the principles of the
 proposed treaty with the Nizam and Mahrattas for more explicitly defining
 the terms of the Guaranty Treaty. The subject is not yet brought to a con-
 clusion, and there is a late reference from the Resident
 P. 39. at Poonah containing a new form of articles proposed
 by the Poonah Court. We have not yet passed any decision upon it; but
 whatever may be finally determined, we think it necessary to observe that, in
 the various discussions of the former treaty, the meaning of the contracting
 parties has been so far ascertained and declared as to leave no doubts remain-
 ing as to what may be deemed an infringement of the treaty, or the conduct
 to be pursued by them in that event.

10. We have the satisfaction to inform you that the *kists* from Oude
 since the succession of Hossein Reza Khan to the office of minister on the
 demise of Hyder Beg have, in general, been paid with
 P. 51. regularity, and it shall be our particular care that the
 same regularity be observed in future.

11. We have directed particular enquiry to be made for the Oude correspondence between the years 1778 and 1786, a copy of
 P. 52. which is required by your orders in the paragraph referred to, and we shall communicate the result in our next dispatches.

12. Your orders in these paragraphs on the subject of Mr. George Perrott's claims on the inhabitants of Broach have been delivered
 P. 53 & 54. to the Governor General, that the necessary attention may be paid to them in his correspondence with the Resident with Sindiah, and the result will be officially communicated to you.

13. We have the sincerest satisfaction in informing you that the Poonah Administration have seceded from their exorbitant claims upon the territories and property of Govindrow Guikwar, and that there is every prospect of a favourable termination of this affair. The deeds by which he consented to surrender a part of his patrimony have been delivered up by the Poonah Durbar.

14. For the principles by which we have been actuated on this occasion, we beg leave to refer you to the instructions sent by the Governor General to the Resident at Poonah on the 1st instant, a copy of which was transmitted by the *Charlotte* cutter,² and to his further instructions of the 29th of November in reply to the letters of Sir C. W. Malet. Copies of these papers are sent numbers in this packet.

15. We had the honor of writing to you on the 16th instant for the purpose of affording you the latest information in our power relative to the armament fitted out from hence for the protection of the trade of this country against the depredations of the French cruizers; but our letter was not in time to reach the packet, and it is sent with the present dispatch, together with copies of our secret and public instructions to the senior officer of the squadron employed upon this service, and copies of our letters to the Government General at Batavia, the Government of Columbo, the Deputy Governor and Council at Fort Marlbro', and your Superintendent at Prince of Wales Island, relative to the objects of the armament. We beg leave to refer to these papers, as containing our orders relative to your ship *Pigot*, upon which we have embarked a quantity of military stores, required at Bencoolen,³ a number of artificers wanted at the settlement, and the proportion of opium (300 chests) which is annually sent to that Residency.

16. Two officers have been deputed by us to survey the condition of the vessels previous to their departure; and as their report will comprize a return of the men and guns, we shall transmit it, as soon as we receive it, to Admiral Cornwallis at Bombay, with copies of the public and private instructions given to the commander and captains.

Fort William,
 30th November, 1793.

We have the honor to be &c.

(Per Barrington.)

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 17 JANUARY 1794

Boundary disputes with Tipu adjusted—Although the Nizam's claim to certain villages had not been settled, the return of hostages considered desirable for promoting good understanding with Tipu—Company not to support the Nizam in his disputes with Mahadji Sindia—Company not to press for the conclusion of the proposed Treaty of Guarantee—A Brahmin who was condemned to death reprieved at the request of the Peshwa—Report of the Malabar Commissioners submitted—Importance of Cochin and proposals for its purchase—Depredations of the Coolie pirates—Peace apparently established in Assam.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for the affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. In detailing the political occurrences from the 30th of November, the date of our address by the *Berrington*, we shall, as far as possible, comprize them under the distinct heads to which they refer, that each subject may come before you in a clear and connected point of view.

Tippoo Sultaun.

2. At the period of the departure of Marquis Cornwallis from Madras, some claims between the Company and Tippoo, relating chiefly to the revenue of certain villages transferred in consequence of the Treaty of Seringapatam, remained unadjusted; His Lordship, with a view to a speedy, final and liberal accommodation, addressed specific proposals to Tippoo Sultaun on the 5th of October; and we have the satisfaction to inform you that an answer has since been received from the Sultaun expressing his acquiescence in His Lordship's propositions, and signifying that he had sent orders to his officers to deliver up the villages belonging to the talooks of Coolagurry [Solagherry]¹ and Verapatchy to the Company.

Consn. 16th Decem-
ber.

3. Previous to the arrival of the Sultaun's answer, a reference had been made to us from the Presidency of Madras of a letter from Captain Macleod containing his enquiry and opinion on the subjects under discussion. It is unnecessary to recapitulate our instructions in points settled by the acquiescence of Tippoo, which superceded all further discussion, and the Government of Fort St. George was of course directed to adopt the propositions of Marquis Cornwallis. But, as our instructions were written before the receipt of Tippoo's acquiescence, and as they applied to other points not mentioned by His Lordship,

Consn. 16 Decem-
ber.

we resolved to dispatch them for the guidance and information of the Madras Government in matters not affected by Tippoo's acquiescence.

4. The questions left undecided related to a watercourse of the Caveri and to the transfer of certain villages belonging to Caroor, restored to Tippoo at the peace.

5. The watercourse is situated in the possessions of Tippoo Sultaun; and the ryots of the Company, at some period previous to the war, had usually enjoyed the advantage of obtaining water from it for the use of their lands on paying a compensation to the ryots of Tippoo. Our instructions were to the following effect:—

6. That it did not appear to us that we had a right to insist upon the watercourse cut from the Caveri being kept open, and notwithstanding any consequences to the lands of the Company from its being shut, we could not but express our disinclination to the payment of any consideration by the ryots of the Company for the benefit which they might derive from it.

7. It seemed to us that a connection of this kind might prove a source of future altercations, that other places might be in a similar situation with respect to the Caveri, and that further claims of a similar nature might be founded on the admission of the precedent. We recommended therefore that Captain Macleod should be directed to state to Tippoo's officers the expectations which we had a right to entertain, from the spirit of conciliation exhibited by us in every discussion which has succeeded the Treaty of Seringapatam, that their master would not permit his subjects to deprive ours of a benefit which might be conferred without injury to them, and that we trusted the friendship now subsisting between the two States would be promoted by every act in which the reciprocal convenience of both might be assisted without injury to either.

8. With respect to the villages of Caroor, which, it was asserted, under the circumstances of a dubious title, had been forcibly seized by Samy Naig, a subject of the Company, we resolved that they should be restored, or retained, according to their situation with respect to the Caveri river; and our right to them, and consequent possession, ought to be determined by this situation. But whatever the right might be, we recommended in the strongest terms to the Government of Madras the discouragement and disapprobation of the act of forcible possession imputed to Samy Naig, and left it to their consideration to determine whether, under any claim of right, it would be worth while to renew or open a negociation for an equivalent for these villages, and whether it would not be more advisable, supposing the case truly represented by Tippoo's officers, to direct the restitution of Casawarree &c., which were said to be taken possession of by the Polygar of Ramgheery.

9. We have entered into a longer detail upon this subject than the importance of it seems to merit; and we trust that all boundary discussions between the Company and Tippoo Sultaun are either finally concluded, or the grounds of adjustment so far settled as to prevent the renewal of future altercation. It is only necessary to add that we have been guided by the same liberal spirit of conciliation which the Marquis Cornwallis invariably adopted, and that by the adjustment made in conformity to his propositions a balance of *pagodas*

3,967 has been relinquished, for which an equivalent might have been claimed from Tippoo.

10. It is with much concern we inform you of the probability of some delay in the restoration of the hostage princes in consequence of claims preferred by the Nizam in virtue of the Treaty of Seringapatam to certain villages not surrendered by Tippoo.

11. The claims of His Highness the Nizam are not recent; they have been long known to Tippoo Sultan, who, in July last, signified to Marquis Cornwallis his consent for deputing an *aumeen* to meet one on the part of the Nizam for the purpose of investigating the rights of the respective parties to the villages in question. From whatever cause the *aumeen* was never sent by Tippoo, and so far the delay in the adjustment of these claims may be imputed to him.

12. As depositaries of the guaranty of the Treaty of Seringapatam, we considered the faith of this Government more particularly pledged to see the stipulations in favor of the Allies punctually fulfilled, whilst we were, at the same time, sensible of the disappointment and mortification which Tippoo Sultaun must feel from a delay in the return of his sons at the moment of anxious expectation.

13. We deemed it particularly unfortunate that this occurrence should so soon have succeeded the departure of Marquis Cornwallis, from whose assurances Tippoo had every reason to expect the immediate restoration of his sons. All the stipulations of the treaty excepting the payment of the third *kist* to the Peshwah, and the surrender of the villages claimed by the Nizam have been fulfilled; and we have every reason to expect the arrival of the declaration from the Courts of Hyderabad and Poonah that the *kists* had been paid, and that the Nizam and Peshwah had no further claims on Tippoo's Government by virtue of the Treaty of Seringapatam. Lord Cornwallis, in his last address to the Sultaun on the 5th October, informed him that on the receipt of this declaration his sons would be immediately restored.

14. The notification of the Nizam's claims was introduced by letter from our Resident at Hyderabad, enclosing a copy of an address from Azeem ul Omrah, the Nizam's Minister, to Tippoo Sultan, and we lost no time in communicating our sentiments upon it to the Government of Madras, who had adopted the same conclusion as we had done on the effect of the Nizam's claims.

15. For the resolutions which we formed on this occasion, we beg leave to refer you to the letters which were respectively addressed to Tippoo Sultaun, Sir John Kennaway and the Madras Government.

16. That, to the former, both in terms and arguments, is calculated to reconcile the Sultaun to the probability of a delay in the return of his sons, and to convince him that, although no inducement could prevail upon us to depart from our established principle of preserving good faith in all our engagements, we were equally disposed to adopt any measure in our power to facilitate the restoration of the hostage princes. We appealed to that spirit of accommodation which had invariably influenced our conduct in all transactions between him and the Allies as arising out of the Treaty of Seringapatam; and to obviate any suspicions excited by his present disappointment, we

specifically detailed the state of the stipulations of the treaty pointing out to him that nothing remained to complete the performance of them but the payment of the third *kist* to the Peshwah, and the adjustment of the Nizam's claims to the villages stated in his Minister's address. To facilitate this latter point, we offered, if he should desire it, the mediation of an English commissioner to assist the discussions of the *aumeens* deputed respectively by him and the Nizam for investigating their mutual claims to the villages in question.

17. The Resident at Hyderabad was fully apprized of the principles of our conduct; but we directed him further to urge such considerations to the Nizam as might induce him to wave his opposition to the return of the hostage princes without renouncing his claim to the villages which he deemed himself entitled to.

18. Your Honorable Court will observe that the Resident was particularly enjoined to offer these considerations as the result of his own judgement, and not as the suggestions of this Government. They were founded on the following arguments, which we shall abstract in such a manner as will shew the reflections which led to them:—the disposition invariably shewn by the Company to facilitate the return of the hostage princes as a precedent of imitation for the Nizam; the effects of Tippoo's disappointment by withholding the return of the hostages with regard to the future good understanding of the two Courts contrasted with the advantages resulting from the Nizam's acquiescence; the importance of the villages demanded as to value and situation, and the certainty of the Nizam's right to them, opposed to the consequences of a perseverance in a dubious claim.

19. In the papers referred to, we trust you will perceive what we meant to express, a resolution to adhere inviolably to the terms of the treaty, combined with the object of facilitating the return of the hostages. The former will be evident to the Nizam from the communications which the Resident at Hyderabad has been instructed to make to him on the part of this Government, and from our address to Tippoo which he will see; and the Sultaun, whatever impression he may receive from his disappointment with respect to the return of his sons, must be satisfied that this event is not delayed upon frivolous pretences, and that it is our wish to promote it. He ought further to perceive that with every inclination to gratify him we deem an adherence to justice and good faith an inviolable maxim.

20. We flatter ourselves that his expectations of receiving his sons will not be long delayed, possibly not beyond the date of the receipt of the intelligence that the last *kist* has been paid to the Peshwah. It is in his own power to determine the period of his sons' return by relinquishing to the Nizam the villages claimed by him; but we think that a tendency towards accommodation on the part of the Nizam would be more calculated to promote a future good understanding between the two Courts.

21. We shall add in this place all that appears material for your particular information regarding the Nizam.

22. He still remains at Bidder, pursuing the negotiations which he has long been engaged in with the Peshwah and Madajec Scindia. We have no particular information either of the object or nature of his late political transactions, but it appears from a reference which his Minister lately made to

Sir John Kennaway that he apprehended demands from Sindiah, and he wished to know how far this Government would assist him by its support or mediation, in case his resistance to these demands should terminate in hostilities.

23. We had no hesitation in forming a resolution on the reference, that our connections with Mahadajee Sindiah precluded our assisting the Nizam against him in the event of hostilities between them, that we could not offer a mediation, and that an application from both parties must precede any deliberation on the propriety of granting it.

24. This resolution will not be explained to the Nizam, unless the reference to our Resident should be renewed, which we do not apprehend will be the case. The terms of the communication, if necessity should require it, will of course be explanatory and conciliatory.

25. With respect to the less important information from the Resident at Hyderabad relating to repeated delays in the payment of the detachment, and to a renter who was supposed to have fled from the Nizam's Government and to have taken refuge in ours, we beg leave to refer you to the proceedings noted in the margin. With regard to the first, we directed the Resident to remonstrate with the Minister, and if that should fail, he was authorized to take up money for bills on Bengal or Madras, the amount of which would be deducted from the current *peshcush*.

6 December.

26. The renter alluded to has not, as we are informed by the Governor General, been discovered in the Company's provinces or at Benares, where he was supposed to have fled.

27. In their transactions with the Court of Poonah, two subjects only occur which require your particular attention; the negotiations carried on by our Resident with that Court for concluding the Guaranty Treaty in explanation of the 10th and 13th articles of the Treaties of Poona and Paangul, and the termination of the Guikwar controversy.

28. We beg leave to refer your Honorable Court to the papers sent numbers in the packet for the particulars of their transactions, which are substantially as follows:—

Instead of adopting the articles of the treaty proposed by Marquis Cornwallis², the Peshwah, after a long interval of consideration, substituted a new draft of a treaty,³ which, with the Resident's remarks upon it, is recorded in the proceedings referred to.

29. In discussing these articles we adopted the following preliminary propositions. That nothing be admitted in the new treaty that is not strictly explanatory of the article which is the basis of it.

30. That none of the articles inserted in the Treaties of Pangul and Poonah be repeated in it, and that nothing be admitted in it contrary to the terms of the Treaty of Seringapatam.

31. By the application of these propositions, many of the articles substituted by the Peshwah were excluded, or objected to; and upon the whole we concluded that no deviation should be admitted from the draft of the treaty proposed by Marquis Cornwallis, with an excepted alteration in the 6th article of it only.

32. By the terms of this article, it appeared that a latitude was given to the contracting parties to purchase grain in each other's dominions at all times duty free, but we deemed it advisable to restrict the exempted purchases to the period of actual hostilities only; and upon this principle, a modification was made in this article, which now stands as follows:—

“Should it be necessary for the prosecution of the war, when actually commenced, to raise recruits of men, or purchase elephants, horses, camels, bullocks or grain, the contracting parties shall have liberty so to do within the dominions of each other, and no duties or customs shall be demanded or levied upon the several articles purchased.”

33. Considering the general unimportance of most of the articles proposed by the Mahrattas, the suggestion which dictated the new form of a treaty appeared principally to have arisen in the idea of avoiding an avowed confirmation of the Treaty of Seringapatam, and in the hopes of establishing their claim to the *peshcush* upon the remaining dominions of Tippoo Sulatun. Their alteration of the preamble and omission of the 3d article of the original draft strongly support this conclusion, which it was our policy and duty to oppose.

34. Considering the discussions which the 10th and 13th articles of the Treaties of Paungul and Poonah have undergone, the unqualified assent of the Hyderabad Minister to the draft proposed by Lord Cornwallis, and the declaration of the Poonah Government of the 3d July last, we saw no cogent reasons for the conclusion of a new explanatory treaty. No doubts, after what has passed, can possibly be entertained as to the meaning of the articles which the new treaty proposes to explain, nor as to the conduct to be pursued by the Allies in the event of an infraction of the treaty of peace by Tippoo.

35. Induced by these arguments, we directed the Resident not to press the conclusion of the treaty, unless the Mahrattas themselves should bring it forward to discussion, but to suffer the negotiation to be dormant for the present until the Mahrattas should themselves renew it. In that case we determined that the draft prepared by Lord Cornwallis should be adopted with the proposed alteration of the 6th article only.

36. We had the honor to advise you in our address of the 30th November that the Mahrattas had relinquished their claims upon the territories of Govindrao Guikwar, and we are happy to observe that the accommodation entered into between him and the Poona Government has been continued without interruption. We did not deem it expedient to comply with an application which he made to us through Sir C. W. Malet for pecuniary assistance, as the advance required by him was incompatible with the state of your finances, and the negotiation would probably have alarmed the jealousy of the Mahrattas.

37. We transmit, as a number in the packet, a copy of a letter from Sir Charles Malet to the Bombay Government, stating that the Peshwah had applied to him in the most urgent terms for the remission of the sentence of death which had been pronounced upon a Brahmin at Bombay, who had been tried before the Mayor's Court for a murder.

38. The Government at Bombay referred the final decision of the business to His Majesty's Justices. They were of opinion that, although it did not appear to them that the Bramin was more entitled to His Majesty's clemency

than the other prisoners convicted and condemned for similar crimes, yet, as they were sensible of the importance of shewing every attention in their power to all requests made to Government by the Maratta State, they have requested us to forward a copy of Sir C. Malet's letter to you by the first dispatch, and have agreed that the man be reprieved until His Majesty's pleasure is known.

39. In the preceding detail we have comprized all the material political occurrences, and we are happy in the reflection that we have no reason to apprehend any interruption to the good understanding which now generally subsists between the Company and the principal powers in Hindostan.

Nabob of Arcot.

40. In the proceedings noted in the margin, your Honorable Court will
 Consn. 9th Decem- perceive a reference from the Government of Madras
 ber, No. 12. on an application from His Highness the Nabob of
 Arcot to purchase the military stores and guns taken
 in Pondicherry. As it is our wish to gratify the Nabob whenever it can
 be done without inconvenience, we resolved to comply with his request, and
 accordingly desired Sir Charles Oakeley to dispose of
 to him such of the military stores in Pondicherry as
 December 16. were not wanted for the use of the Company.

41. We have received several representations from His Highness relating to the polygars who, by the terms of the treaty concluded by Marquis Cornwallis, now pay their revenues to the officers of the Company at Madras.

42. That disorders should still subsist amongst a race of people over whom no regular government has ever been established is naturally to be expected, and time and attention are requisite for the introduction of order and subordination. But whilst we are fully convinced of the propriety of the arrangements concluded by the late Governor General with respect to the polygars, we are equally satisfied that a return to the former system would little contribute to the suppression of these disorders, which prevailed in a much greater degree when the polygars paid their revenues immediately to His Highness.

43. Our answer to the Nabob was conformable to the tenor of these remarks, and, in reply to an application from him on the subject of the adjustment of his accounts with the Company, we have assured him that every exertion on our parts shall be made to complete this arduous and intricate business without loss of time. With a view to facilitate this object we have appointed a committee for investigating the accounts, and to report upon them.

44. We have received the report of the proceedings of the Commissioners on the Malabar Coast, and we have the satisfaction to add that Mr. Duncan is returned to Bengal. We are not at present prepared to offer you our sentiments on the important arrangements concluded by them. The report and appendix are too voluminous to admit of an abstract, but our attention will be directed to the subject generally, as well as occasionally, when necessity requires it.

45. We request the attention of your Honorable Court to an address from the Supravisor on the Malabar Coast relative to a treaty said to be on foot between the Dutch and the Ram Rajah for the purchase of Cochin.

Consn. 27th Decem-
ber, Nos. 23,
24 & 25.

46. We cannot but dissent from the sentiments of the Supravisor on the unimportance of Cochin to the English Company, and the Commander in Chief has submitted to us his opinion on this subject, in which we readily concur, that the possession of Cochin (with its dependencies), could it be acquired upon reasonable terms, would be of great importance to the interests of the Honorable Company on the Malabar Coast for the following reasons:—

1st. Because as a place of strength, it would become an excellent depot for warlike stores, provisions *&c.*, *&c.*, for the security of their southern territories and those of their friend and ally, the Rajah of Travancore.

2dly. Because its situation near the mouth of a fine river (over the bar of which there is more water by several feet than over⁴ any other on the coast) renders it very commodious for commerce.⁵

3d. Because the country abounds in excellent timber, and ships of 1,000 tons burthen are conveniently built there.

4th. Because it would contribute greatly to an exclusive trade in pepper in favor of the Company.

And lastly, because it would totally put a stop to the barbarous traffic in slaves, which is at present most shamefully carried on to a considerable extent by the Dutch to the great detriment of the British possessions on that coast.

47. It is to be observed that the Company have no fortress near the sea from Cavai river to Cochin, except Cannanore⁶, which is situated at no great distance from the northern boundary, and which when put into a proper state of defence will afford a depot in that quarter: an object which we conceive to be of consequence, whether it be considered as a security for the northern districts of the ceded countries, or as a place from whence, should an invasion of Mysore ever again become necessary, heavy artillery, stores, provisions *&c.* may be conveyed by water to Ercoor⁷, a port only 18 miles distant from the Pushirkeram Gaut.⁸

48. The preceding detail is submitted to your Honorable Court in the view of assisting you to form an opinion on the propriety of entering into a negotiation with the Dutch for the purchase of Cochin and its dependencies, which, we understand, the Chief of that settlement was some time ago willing to dispose of to the English Company.

49. In the proceedings referred to, a letter from the Rajah of Travancore is recorded containing specific proposals for a more intimate connection and alliance with the English Company. We think it unnecessary to recapitulate them in this place, as we have not yet formed any resolution upon them, and the subject will come before you in a more satisfactory form when we are able to communicate to you the Rajah's proposals with our sentiments upon them.

50. We have however thought it necessary to remonstrate with him, in

consequence of pointed complaints from the Government of Bombay, that he had failed in his contract for supplying the Company with pepper, and we trust that our representations will induce him to a more punctual discharge of his engagements.

51. The Government of Bombay having informed us that the merchants of their Presidency were exposed to the depredations of certain pirates residing in the Gulph of Cambay, known by the denomination of Coolies, and that several ships had been captured by these marauders, who were described as unconnected with the Mahratta Government, or that of any other native power, to which a remonstrance might be made against their piracies, we authorized without hesitation the Bombay Government to employ their cruizers in destroying the boats of these pirates, taking care that the force directed to this object should be sufficient.

52. We are concerned to inform you that His Excellency Admiral Cornwallis has notified to us his resolution to return to Europe as soon as the *Minerva* is refitted. His letter dated the 11th of December from Bombay is recorded on the proceedings noted in the margin. Although we were fully sensible of the inadequacy of one vessel for the purpose of general protection, we could entertain no doubt that essential benefit would be derived from the continuance of His Majesty's ship the *Minerva* in India. We lost no time in expressing these sentiments to His Excellency Admiral Cornwallis, with such further arguments as we hoped might prevail upon him to alter his resolution, and we requested that the Bombay Government would tender to him the frigate which we understand has been lately built there, or any other vessel belonging to the Company's marine which the Admiral might deem an useful accession to his force.

Consn. 13th Janu-
ary.

Assam.

53. Your Honorable Court has already been duly apprized of the motives and object of the interference of this Government in the affairs of Assam. We are much concerned that the benevolent views which dictated our interposition should have been impeded by the peculiar situation of affairs in that country as arising out of the character of the Rajah and his Ministers, and the jealousies and animosities of the principal people. The Rajah of Deringh, whose opposition to his sovereign, supported by the subjects of these provinces, first induced the Rajah of Assam to apply for our assistance, has returned to his allegiance, and has been restored to his possessions; and the chieftains known by the name of *Gosseins* [*Gohains*]⁹, who possess considerable power and influence in Assam, have been pardoned by the Rajah, and will, we hope, assist in re-establishing order in that distracted country.

54. One of the Rajah's principal Ministers (who has long been dismissed from his service) with his son have been sent to Rungpore by Captain Welsh, as he deemed this measure the only effectual mode of depriving them of power to foment old, or create new, disturbances; and the Rajah has declared his intention to appoint new Ministers in the room of those dismissed as soon as he shall have obtained the suffrages of the chiefs.

55. This will, we imagine, greatly contribute to quiet the apprehensions of the people in general who dreaded the restoration of the late Ministers.

56. For more particular informations regarding Assam, we beg leave to refer you to the proceedings of the annexed date containing a minute of the

Consn. January 6th. Governor General on this subject, and certain queries which we have directed to be made to Captain Welsh.

57. The object of those queries is to obtain precise information on the leading points by which the interference of this Government was originally suggested, and hence to enable us to determine on the mode, extent, and propriety of its continuance. We shall be happy if the result should correspond with our anxious expectations for the limitation of its duration.

Napaul.

58. We have the honor to transmit to you a memoir communicated by Captain Kirkpatrick containing the result of his enquiries and observations during his deputation to Napaul, together with a copy of his letter which accompanied his narrative.

59. An application having been made to us from the Rajah of Almora for our assistance in the disputes subsisting between him and Rajah of Napaul, an answer was returned informing him that the general principles of our conduct, as well as the friendly connection between the English and the Rajah of Napaul, precluded the possibility of our interference.

Consn. 6 January,
Nos. 9 & 10.

Miscellanea.

60. On our consultations of the annexed dates, you will find the muster rolls and a general return of the crews on board the squadron under the command of Commodore Mitchell, together with a minute of the Governor General's, testifying his sense of the assiduity and exertion of the gentlemen employed in

Consn. 9th Decem-
ber, No. 1.

equipping the squadron for sea.

Consn. 9 December,
No. 10.

61. We transmit as a number in the packet a copy of a letter written by us to Captain Mitchell upon the arrival of a report here that the French had captured Bencoolen. We have not received any confirmation of this

report, which we think very dubious, particularly as a country vessel is lately arrived from the west coast of

Sumatra without having received any intelligence of this event. The additional instructions communicated to Captain Mitchell in consequence of the first report are recorded on the dates noted.

16 December, No. 1.

62. We also transmit as a number in the packet a copy of our latest advices from Commodore Mitchell dated off Junk Ceylon, where he had arrived on the 15th of December with his fleet all well.

63. On our consultations of the annexed date you will find a copy of a letter addressed to us by the Secret and Superintending Committee at Canton from which you will learn, as we have done, with much

3 January, No. 2.

pleasure of the honorable reception of His Excellency Lord Macartney¹⁰ upon his landing.

64. We transmit as a number in the packet a copy of an application from the Governor and Council at Batavia for such naval aid for the protection of their trade as we might deem adequate to that purpose or be able to afford.

Fort William,
17th January, 1794.

We have the honor to be &c.,

(Signed) Governor General in Council.

(Per Wm. Henry.)

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POLITICAL LETTER DATED 20 JANUARY 1794

Captain Mitchell and the French in East Indies waters.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have the honor to transmit for the information of your Honorable Court copies of a letter and its enclosure this day received from Captain Mitchell; and we are happy to conclude from the resolution which he has formed of proceeding on his original destination, and sending the *Pigot* to Bencoolen, that he deems the report of the capture of that place unfounded.

2. With respect to the force of the enemy said to be stationed in the Straits of Sunda, we have no additional information to authenticate the report, which we trust is greatly exaggerated, if not altogether without foundation; and Captain Mitchell, in conformity to the fifteenth article of his secret instructions, will, we conclude, at all events, avoid exposing his squadron to a force superior to his own, admitting the intelligence, communicated by the Dutch Governor at Malacca, of a 36 gun ship under Pulo Accor, as well as the report relating to the French privateer of 22 guns. We have the fullest confidence that the force under Captain Mitchell is competent to cope with or destroy them.

Fort William,
20th January, 1794.

We have the honor to be &c.,

Honorable Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servants.

(Per Wm. Henry.)

Signed. Governor and Council.

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 13 FEBRUARY 1794

Payment of the third instalment of the war indemnity and the return of the hostage princes: Tipu urged to adjust the Nizam's claims—Menace from French privateers equipped at Mauritius.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for the affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Our last dispatches from this Department were dated the 17th of January, and we now have the honor of addressing you for the purpose of laying before you a brief recital of the most material occurrences, previous to the transmission of a more detailed account by a future opportunity.

2. In the 20th paragraph of our last letter, we acquainted you with the obstacles that had arisen to the return of the hostage princes, and with the measures we had adopted to facilitate an event relative to which Tippoo Suldaun had expressed, and naturally felt, so much solicitude.

3. We have now the pleasure to inform you that His Highness the Nizam expressed his consent to the immediate restoration of the hostage princes, if we were satisfied that the points in litigation between the two *Sircars* would be satisfactorily settled after their release, and approved of their going before they were adjusted; and deeming this declaration fully sufficient, we did not hesitate to authorize the restoration of the princes, whenever upon the receipt of intelligence that the last *kist* had been paid to the Peshwah. We have informed the Nizam, that, while we consider this conciliatory conduct on his part as greatly tending to promote that harmony and cordiality which it is the wish of the confederates to maintain with Tippoo Suldaun, we were at the same time convinced that the return of the hostages would expedite, rather than retard, the adjustment of his claims.

4. It may be proper to apprise you that the letter addressed by the Nizam's Minister Azeem ul Omrah to Tippoo Suldaun was not forwarded to their master by the *vakeels* at Fort St. George, but a representation was made by them to Azeem ul Omrah in reply; that the Nizam's acquiescence was granted upon this representation; and that Sir Charles Oakley on the receipt of it deferred the communication of the address from this Government to Tippoo Suldaun, noticed in our dispatches to your Honorable Court under date 17th January, 1794. The Resident at Hydrabad, for similar reasons, very properly suspended the communications directed in the Governor General's address to him of the 24th December, of which a copy was transmitted to you.

5. We have the honor to send enclosed copy of a letter from the Governor General to Tippoo Sultaun to be delivered to him by Captain Doveton on his arrival at Seringapatam with the princes. You will observe that it is calculated to impress on Tippoo the importance and necessity of a speedy adjustment of the claims of the Nizam, and of defining with precision the boundaries of their respective dominions, with constant reference to the obligations of the Treaty of Seringapatam, and to the engagements subsisting between the English, the Peshwah, and the Nizam. It is obvious that any apparent inattention on our part to the interest of our Allies would be taken advantage of by Tippoo; and good faith and policy required that we should convince both him and them of our regard to their interests, and of our determination to observe the engagements by which those interests as well as our own are provided for. We believe and trust that all causes of litigation now subsisting between the Nizam and Tippoo Sultaun will be speedily and happily settled.

6. Your Resident at Poonah having subsequently communicated to us the intelligence of the receipt of the third *kist* by the Peshwah, and that no further claim remained to be adjusted between that Court and Tippoo, we have written to Sir Charles Oakeley to authorize the departure of the princes to Seringapatam.

7. We transmit copies of two letters received from His Excellency the Nabob of Oude, one addressed to His Majesty, and the other to your Honorable Court.

8. You will receive in the packet some heads of intelligence laid before us relative to the enemy's privateers under equipment from the Isle of France, which have induced us to direct that the instructions, of which we enclose a copy, should be given to the Commodore or Senior Commander of the ships now proceeding to Europe relative, among other subjects, to the track he should pursue to avoid them. A copy of the orders sent on this occasion to the Captains of the *Kent*, *Northumberland*, *Warren Hastings*, and *Earl Cornwallis* is also transmitted herewith. It is superfluous to add that in the event of the continuance of the war, the trade of India will be left at the mercy of the French without that naval assistance from Europe which we have long and anxiously expected.

9. It appears from the Bombay Gazette that His Excellency Admiral Cornwallis sailed from that settlement on the 12th of January before our address of the 8th of January could reach him, and we conclude, agreeably to the notification he made to us, that he is gone to Europe.

We have the honor to be &c., &c.,

Fort William,
13th February, 1794.

Signed. Governor and Council,

(Per Deptford.)

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 15 FEBRUARY 1794

Burmese enter Chittagong and demand surrender of certain fugitives.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. It is not in our power by this dispatch to submit to you our late proceedings containing information of the entrance of the Burma troops into the province of Chittagong; but we deem it necessary to communicate to you the intelligence we have received from the Magistrate of Chittagong on this subject, and to apprise you of the measures which we have adopted in consequence.

2. The river Naaf forms the boundary between the Company's territories on the east of Chittagong and the country of the Mugs in Aracan, which some years ago was conquered by the King of Pegu; and about the 20th of January, information was received by the Magistrate of Chittigong that the Burmas or subjects of the King of Pegu had crossed the Naaf to the number of fifteen hundred, and had taken post on this side within the province of Chittigong. Letters were at the same time received by the Magistrate from the General of the Burma troops and other officers under the Pegu Government; and three persons under the title of Embassadors also arrived at Chittigong. Later intelligence states the number of Burma troops to exceed seven thousand, and that they have strongly entrenched themselves in five separate forts composed of earth and felled trees.

3. Some years ago several of the inhabitants of Aracan fled from that country and settled in Chittigong upon land assigned to them for that purpose, and there is reason to believe that they may have committed depredations in Aracan. The restitution of the refugees, and satisfaction for the depredations said to have been committed by them, are the causes assigned in the letters from the officers of the Pegu Government for the entrance of their troops within our territories; and from their conduct and declarations we have reason to believe that they mean to attempt enforcing their claims, if they should be refused. It further appears that a larger force has been assembled in Aracau, fit to suppose the demands of the Pegu Government.

4. The Magistrate of Chittagong observes that the invaders are armed with French musquets, and that, two days before this intelligence reached him, a report was current among the principal inhabitants of that town that the Pegu Government had been led by the advice of the French, and in league with them to attempt the conquest of Chittigong; but we have no reason whatever to suppose that the Burmas are accompanied by any of the subjects of France.

5. Some troops have been detached from Chittigong to observe the motions of the Burmas, who have not hitherto acted offensively; and a larger force has been ordered to be ready to act as occasion may require. To the requisitions of the Burma officers we have directed the Magistrate to reply substantially that we will not permit the subjects of our Government, nor persons living under its protection, to commit depredations upon those of another state; and if these acts can be established, that the authors of them shall be punished and they shall be compelled to make restitution; that the ambassadors with a proper number of attendants may remain to be witnesses of the justice of this Government, but that we require in the first instance that the Burma troops shall evacuate our territories, when a due investigation shall immediately ensue.

6. We have ordered the Magistrate not to act offensively against the Burma troops whilst they remain pacific; but if they should commit any acts of hostility, or refuse to obey the requisition to retire, after allowing them a competent time for that purpose, he is authorized to expell them by force, if the strength of the troops should be deemed sufficient for that purpose. He states his own opinion that the present force is fully competent to the service required of it; in the meantime, we have further ordered the Magistrate to secure the persons of those mentioned in the Burma letters as the depredators.

7. The entrance of the Burma troops into our provinces is a decided act of hostility, and we should have deemed ourselves justified in ordering the immediate expulsion of them. The invasion was not preceded by any representation of injury, or claim for redress, and the Magistrate seems to think it probable that the Pegu Government have more important intentions than the mere requisition of a few fugitives. We are equally determined to afford the subjects of Pegu justice for any injuries they may have sustained from those under our authority, and to protect our own rights from invasion, and by this rule our conduct will be regulated.

We have the honor to be &c., &c.,

Fort William,
15th February, 1794.

Signed. Governor and Council.

(Per Deptford.)

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 10 MARCH 1794

The death of Mahadji Sindia—Despatch of troops under Col. Erskine to meet the Burmese incursion—Complaints about heavy losses inflicted by French privateers and the measures taken to protect private commerce—Intelligence regarding Captain Mitchell's squadron.



Maratha Empire, 1793—Nana Phadnis, Minister; Madhav Rao Narayan, Peshwa;
Mahadji Sindia, General

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors for the affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have the honor to submit to you by the present dispatch copies of three letters from the Resident at Poonah relative to the death of Mahajee Sindiah, which happened at Poonah on the 12th of last month after an illness of about ten days.

2. We shall not at present offer any conjectures on the effect which this important event may produce upon the Mahratta power or interests in Hindostan; but it is material to state to your Honorable Court that we see no reason to apprehend any immediate consequences prejudicial to the interest of the Company, nor any commotions in which this Government can be implicated.

3. In this conviction we have not deemed it necessary to adopt any measures that might excite a suspicion of interference on our parts in those arrangements that must necessarily occupy the attention of the Poonah administration.

4. Doulut Row, an adopted son of Sindia, reputed to be about fourteen years of age, is mentioned as the probable successor to his power and dominions with the concurrence of the Poonah Government.

5. We shall transmit, numbers in the packet, copies of the two last letters that we have received from Captain Kirkpatrick, your Resident with Nizam Ally Khan.

6. From the general tenor of these letters and their enclosures, it would appear that the Nizam was disposed to qualify or retract his acquiescence in the return of the princes, or possibly to avail himself of the effect of such an intimation to obtain from this Government specific assurances of its support, or to induce us to agree to a measure which he has frequently urged, of a separate and independent alliance with himself.

7. But the terms of his acquiescence, as quoted in an address of the 13th ultimo, do not admit of a doubtful construction, and we cannot now attend to any deviation, if it were proposed. Our disposition to secure to the Nizam the full benefit of the stipulations in the late treaty in his favor has been evinced by the terms of the Governor General's letter to Tippoo Sultaun, referred to in our address above mentioned, as well as by the information which we then communicated to your Honorable Court.

8. It will afford you satisfaction to know that, when we last heard from Madras, preparations were making for the return of the hostage princes to their father, and that they were to proceed on their journey in a few days accompanied by Captain Doveton,¹ who was charged with letters on the occasion from Lord Cornwallis to Tippoo Sultaun.

9. A question of importance having been submitted to us by the Madras Government on the construction and extent of the 7th article of the treaty of peace,² relative to the descriptions of refugees to be delivered up by the

contracting parties respectively, we enclose a copy of our answer on this head, which, containing our reasons at large for the instructions contained in it, it is unnecessary to enlarge further on them.

10. You will receive in this dispatch copy of a minute laid before us by the Governor General relative to the future management of the province of Benares, and an extract from a letter which was written to Sir John Shore on that subject by Lord Cornwallis. It is only necessary to add that we have in consequence determined to leave the arrangement there for the present unaltered, referring the final decision to the judgement of your Honorable Court.

11. In our last dispatches, we advised you of the entrance of the Burma troops into the district of Chittagong, and of the instructions we had sent to the Magistrate of that district regulating his reply to the requisitions of the Burma Officers. The Magistrate, on his receipt of these instructions, wrote to the *Ameen* of Pegu, the *Soobahdar* of Aracan, and the *Sirdar* of the army, and you will receive enclosed a copy of the answer given by the latter.

12. Considering the mode of this invasion, and the nature of the answer made to our requisitions, it seems probable that the invaders are determined to maintain their fortified position within our territory until an answer be received to the reference made by them to their own Government. Our instructions to the Commanding Officer direct their expulsion as soon as he shall judge his force sufficient for that purpose.

13. Our former instructions to the Magistrate of Chittagong were founded on intimations from him that the refugees from Arracan who had resided for many years under our protection had lately committed depredations in that country; but as the present requisitions of the Burmah officers rather seem to reclaim these persons as fugitives than to demand restitution for any late acts of outrage, we authorized the Magistrate to postpone the execution of our former orders for apprehending the persons specifically demanded as the depredators, according to the information he might possess on this subject.

14. We have also desired him to communicate the fullest and most particular intelligence he can procure of the situation and conduct of the fugitives from Aracan, who have lived under our Government previous to the entrance of the Burma troops into the Company's territories, as well as with respect to the real motives of their Government, advising us likewise precisely how far the troops have advanced into the Company's districts.

15. At the same time we have thought it expedient to order from the Presidency the following detachment under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Erskine: 1 European battalion of infantry; 1 company of artillery with six pounders; 2 battalions of sepoy.

16. We have been advised of Colonel Erskine's arrival at Chittagong, and conclude that according to his instructions he has proceeded to take the necessary steps for expelling the invaders from our territories.

17. We transmit to you in this dispatch copy of a letter addressed to us by a committee appointed by the merchants and agents of Calcutta on the defenceless state of the maritime commerce of this country, and soliciting

every relief and protection that could with propriety be granted to it at a season of distressful anxiety to them all.

18. We were fully sensible of the alarming situation in which the commerce of India was placed from the want of a sufficient naval force to protect it; and although we did not admit in their fullest extent the reports of the armaments said to have left the Mauritius about the 25th of December last, as the intelligence on this subject collected from different persons only mentioned an equipment of four vessels in the beginning of that month, we had no hesitation in recording our opinion that the armaments from the French Islands have already committed great depredations on the property of the subjects of England and Holland, and that there was ground to entertain the most serious apprehensions, unless they should be checked by an adequate naval force.

19. In considering the address of the merchants we did not view the subject as important to their interest only. To these, the interest of the Company, as affected by the detention of their ships, if it could be considered in this single point of view, might be opposed; but whilst the reputation of the Company's Government in India requires every exertion for its support, it may be further remarked that the commercial interests of this country cannot be injured without a proportionate loss to the Company, and that every capture adds to the resources of the enemy, affords them new means of enterprise and molestation, and that the uninterrupted accumulation of their strength may threaten serious consequences to the settlements of the Company at Fort Marlbro' and Prince of Wales Island.

20. Under the influence of these considerations we could not want inclination to make every practicable exertion for the protection of the national interests in India; but we, at the same time, thought it just that the merchants whose concerns would be more immediately benefited by our exertions should contribute an ample proportion of the expence which ought not to devolve upon the Company alone, and the merchants in the address before us expressed their readiness to co-operate.

21. The question then was whether this Government, with the assistance of the merchants, could command the necessary means for an effectual opposition to the enemy; and this consideration combined the number of vessels to be employed, their effective force in men and guns, and the means of fitting them out. We did not come to any decision on the subject, but requested the Governor General to confer with the merchants upon it. Their answer has not been yet received, but we expect to be soon informed of the communications they have to lay before us relative to it.

22. You will observe that we have been disappointed in our expectations of the return of the squadron fitted out by this Government, which we had no reason to suppose would be prolonged beyond the 20th February. Our principal solicitude on this occasion arises from the disappointment your Honorable Court will experience with respect to the returning cargoes, having no grounds of apprehension that the delay has proceeded from any misfortune.

23. The latest official accounts from Commodore Michell are dated from Malacca on the 31st December; but we have private intelligence that the squadron left Rhio, near the straits of Singapore, about the middle of

January; and we think it further necessary to add that, in the event of the speedy return of these ships, a question will then occur on the necessity of detaining them in India for the purposes of general protection.

24. We are sorry it is not in our power to transmit you by this dispatch copies of the report and accompanying papers received from the Commissioners on the Malabar Coast, or of a minute from the Governor General containing propositions for confirming the arrangements made by the Commissioners, and for determining such points as were left open for the decision of this Government; as well as instructions to the Bombay Government in consequence.

25. The delay in the transcription of these papers has been occasioned by their voluminous extent and the constant employment of them during our own consideration of the many important points contained in them.

Fort William,
10th March, 1794.

(Per Fort William.)

We have the honor to be,

Honorable Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servants,

Signed. Governor and Council.

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POLITICAL LETTER DATED 15 MAY 1794

Policy regarding forts in Southern India—The Malabar Commissioners praised for their report—The Mysore princes return to their father; Tipu's present goodwill no barrier to his ambitions—The Nizam: Azim-ul-Umara's duplicity in seeking the Peshwa's support to oppose the return of the hostage princes; the Nizam's weak administration, a perpetual temptation to the Marathas to demand chauth—the Nawab Vazir to be urged to effect reforms speedily, but direct interference in internal affairs to be avoided—Capt. Welsh ordered to withdraw from Assam by 1 July 1794.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors &c.

Honorable Sirs,

1. The dispatch of the *Sugarcane* enables us to address your Honorable Court in continuation of our last letter from this Department dated the 10th March, of which we also enclose a quadruplicate.

Fort. St. George and Bombay.

2. We are happy to signify to you the concurrence of the Governor in Council of Fort St. George in our answer to his reference to us on the construction and extent of the 7th article of the Treaty of Seringapatam, a copy of which accompanied our last dispatch.

our fullest satisfaction with their able, zealous, and successful discharge of the arduous and important trust committed to them.

Tippoo Sultaun, Marhattas and Nizam.

14. The accompanying copies of our correspondence with Captain Doveton and the Residents at Poonah and Hyderabad will inform your Honorable Court of the occurrences and negotiations communicated by them since our last address, and of the answers thereto, written with our concurrence by the

7th April. Governor General, in addition to which we transmit

copy of a minute delivered by the latter on the 7th ultimo, containing a general review of our political situation in respect to the Marhattas and Nizam, and incidentally in respect to Tippoo Sultaun and the northern powers of Hindostan, under the change of circumstances occasioned by the death of Mahajee Sindia as well as the probable views of policy which these States reciprocally may be expected to pursue towards each other.

15. The recent period at which the Governor General's minute was written, and the full scope it embraces, render it unnecessary to enter on a similar discussion in this place. We shall therefore confine ourselves to a concise mention of the principal transactions that have occurred since our last address referring to the accompanying papers for particulars.

16. And first, it will be satisfactory to your Honorable Court to know that the hostage princes left Madras on the 27th February, escorted by Captain Doveton, who has continued to attend them with a battalion of sepoys and a party of cavalry, and accompanied by the *vakeels* and attendants who came with them from Seringapatam; that they ascended the *gauts*, where they were met by an officer on the part of Tippoo, with compliments, on the 17th March; and that they were safely delivered into the hands of their father near Devanelly, where he had been encamped with a small body of troops for two or three months preceding, on the 28th March.

17. The letters written by the young princes to Marquis Cornwallis previous to their departure from Madras, and by Sir Ch. Oakley to Tippoo Sultaun, the reception given by the latter to Captain Doveton, and his expressions of friendship towards Marquis Cornwallis, the present Governor General, and the Governor of Madras, as well as his general declarations of good will towards the English nation, with all other circumstances attending this deputation of Captain Doveton, will be fully made known to your Honorable Court by the accompaniments already referred to, which also contain the letters written by the Governor General on this occasion, the declaration signed by the *vakeels* that the boundary disputes between their principal and the Nizam shall be adjusted according to the treaty of peace; and the instructions given to Captain Doveton for the adjustment of boundary and other questions still pending on the Malabar frontier, in case he had proceeded to Seringapatam and the Sultaun had shewn any disposition to an amicable negotiation of these points with a view of bringing them to a speedy and final adjustment.

18. That this opportunity has not led to such an adjustment we cannot but regret, though we doubt not your Hon'ble Court will, on the whole, see no cause for dissatisfaction with the conduct of Tippoo on this occasion. On the

9. The same remark may be applied to our instructions of the 28th ultimo to the Governor in Council of Bombay relative to the fortifications of Paulgautcherry and Cananore; and we beg leave to refer to the minute of the Commander in Chief (of which and the papers accompanying it with our letter to Bombay, we forward copies) for the measures recommended by him, and, with our full concurrence, pointed out to the attention of the Governor in Council at Bombay, on the subject of these important barriers to our late acquisitions on the Malabar side of the peninsula.

10. We are also happy in being able to transmit you by this opportunity complete copies of the proceedings and report of the Commissioners deputed to the province of Malabar, which have been already noticed in our former addresses, with our intention of giving the earliest attention in our power to the many important subjects of them.

11. The minute which the Governor General recorded on the annexed date containing a full recapitulation of the several objects to which the Commissioners directed their enquiries, as well as the general result and the points on which our resolutions were required, together with suggestions of what on a review of the voluminous proceedings of the Commissioners had appeared to him advisable to be recommended to the Governor of Bombay, or submitted to the determination of your Honorable Court, on each head, we beg leave to refer to this minute, and to our consequent instructions to the Governor in Council of Bombay on the 27th March, for the grounds and particulars of our several resolutions, as well as of the two points left for the decision of your Honorable Court, *viz.*, the pretensions of the French to the *nayrship* of Corringottee² (*vide* paragraph 58 of our letter to Bombay); and 2dly whether we shall retain, or enforce any claim to, the districts of Paroor, Alungar, and Koomer Nayr ceded to us by Tippoo, but claimed and possessed by the Rajah of Travancore.

12. We also beg leave to refer to our further letter to the Governor of Bombay on the 11th April, and to the minute from the Commander in Chief therein noticed, for our instructions and the grounds of them, on a proposal from the Commissioners to raise two provincial corps in Malabar of *Nayrs* and *Mapillas*, on which we in the first instance requested the opinion of the Commander in Chief and which, in full concurrence with his sentiments, we have recommended to be adopted in the manner suggested by him.

13. We cannot however avoid repeating in this place, for the particular notice of your Honorable Court, the sense we entertain of the able and satisfactory manner in which the Commissioners have discharged the important trust delegated to them. When we consider the peculiar difficulty attending their investigations, the various objects to which they have been directed, and the success with which they have been pursued, as well as the arrangements which have been formed, we can have no hesitation in bestowing that approbation on the conduct of the Commissioners which it is throughout entitled to. We have accordingly requested the Governor in Council at Bombay to testify to the Commissioners from that Presidency (Messrs. Farmer, Page and Dow), as we have ourselves done to those from hence (Messrs. Duncan & Boddam),

copies of our instructions to him for your further information, together with a list of the jewels sent under his care by the way of Benares and Bundulcund, and translates of the letters written on this occasion by the Governor General to the Paishwa and Nana Furnavese.

24. In conclusion, on what respects the Mahratta States, or rather the different members of the extensively connected empire, we request the attention of your Honorable Court to the above mentioned minute, and to the letters written in pursuance of it, for full information of the grounds which have induced us to determine on continuing the Residency at Sindeca's Court, provided it be desired, as we doubt not it will be, by his successor; and we further enclose a copy of the instructions issued to Major Palmer in the interim, being, in substance, to confine himself, in any intercourse he may have with Dowlut Row or the officers of Mahajee Sindeca, to general assurance of our having no intention to depart from the friendly connection established with the Court of Oojein, and to state explicitly if necessary that his office of Resident having expired with Sindeca he must wait our directions for his guidance previous to any resumption of it.

N. W. Provinces, Vizier's &c.

25. Little of importance has occurred in our late intercourse with the Nabob Vizier. Mr. Cherry received charge of the Residency, pursuant to his appointment to succeed Mr. Ives, on the 17th ultimo.

26. Previous to his arrival at Lucknow an intimation was given by Lieutenant Colonel Macgowan to the acting Resident Mr. Johnstone of the possible intention of the King to leave Dillee and take refuge with the English and Vizier. Our instructions on that occasion approved Mr. Johnstone's adherence to Lord Cornwallis's directions to Mr. Ives on the 16th May, 1788, when the King Shah Allum was understood to have expressed a similar inclination to put himself under the protection of the Company, and directing that these should be considered the rule of guidance for the Company's representative at Lucknow, if any occasion for applying them should hereafter occur.

27. It has long been our anxious wish, no less than that of Marquis Cornwallis, to prevail upon the Nabob Vizier to arrange the internal administration of his country, and establish it upon principles calculated to promote the happiness of his subjects, as well as the permanency of his own authority; and with a view to obtain such an arrangement, the Governor General addressed the Resident on the 1st instant in the terms of the accompanying copy of his letter of that date, desiring he would take an early opportunity of ascertaining from the Ministers whether any and what measures have been adopted in consequence of the admonitions and recommendations of Marquis Cornwallis, whose letter, addressed from Madras to the Vizier, was delivered to his Ministers in Calcutta, with the most serious recommendations to them to use their utmost exertions in giving effect to the advice contained in it, with an assurance that they should never want the support derived from the countenance and encouragement of this Government in carrying into execution the necessary arrangements for promoting the prosperity of the Vizier's dominions.

contrary, it appears to us that by his marked attentions to Captain Doveton he has evinced a sense of the kind treatment received by his sons, though it cannot be supposed that this would be sufficient to counteract the suggestions of his interest and ambition in seizing a favorable opportunity for attempting the recovery of his dominions and reputation.

19. We have not yet heard of Captain Doveton's return to Madras, nor have the letters with which he was charged by Tippoo Sultaun on taking leave yet reached us; but his last letter, dated the 15th April, will inform your Honorable Court that he had then received his final audience, and was about to return without delay to Fort St. George, from whence he proposed to come to this Presidency.

20. From the correspondence of the Resident at Hyderabad your Honorable Court will observe that the restoration of the princes, at an early period after our last address on this subject, received a confirmation of the Nizam's concurrence, and that his Minister on his part wrote in terms of conciliation to Tippoo Sultaun on this occasion, though with respect to the former, Azeem ul Omra, as noticed in the Governor General's minute already referred to, it is evident that, at the moment he expressed his acquiescence in the return of the hostages, he was endeavouring to prevail on the Poonah Government to concur with him in opposing it.

21. The weak administration and inconsistent conduct of Azeem ul Omra have been already pointed out in our former addresses, as well as the impolicy of his negotiations with the late Mahajee Sindeea, and the probable consequences of his controversial discussions with the Paishwa. The correspondence now communicated will confirm what has been before suggested, and point to the natural effect of these combined causes, the imbecility of the Nizam's Government and consequent advantage to his neighbours disposed to avail themselves of it, particularly the Mahrattas, whose augmented power in consequence of the death of Sindeeah may tempt as well as enable them to enforce their yet unadjusted demands on the Nizam for arrears of *choute &c.*, detailed in the last recorded letter from the Resident. It is unnecessary to repeat what we have written to the Resident at Poonah, as well as the Resident at Hyderabad, on this head, as copies of the Governor General's letters to both are sent accompanying, and his minute indeed contains the substance of them.

22. The confirmation of Secunder Jah, the minor son of the late Dara Jah, in his father's rights and dignities, which is stated by the Resident at Hyderabad to have taken place on the 19th February last, is the only further occurrence communicated by him deserving notice. The late correspondence with the Resident at Poonah contains nothing requiring particular mention, except the investiture of Doulat Row Sindea, with a ceremonial reservation on the part of the Peshwa sufficiently expressive of that cautious reserve which on all occasions marks the character of his Government.

23. We may here observe, however, that, in consequence of the Paishwa's having expressed a wish that the jewels of the late Ragonaut Row, bestowed on him as a mark of esteem by the Honorable Company, should be sent under an escort by land in preference to a sea conveyance, we have deputed Lieutenant Michie with a proper escort for this purpose; and we forward

3. That he recall all detachments from his battalion, such only excepted as may be necessary for securing a communication for his return, or for collecting provisions, or for the purposes of defence only.

4. That Captain Welsh be required to publish a proclamation³ to the chiefs and inhabitants of Assam in the annexed terms, transmitting a copy of it with a separate notification to each of the Rajahs or chiefs who from prescription are entitled to be consulted.

Vide proceedings in list of packet.

5. That the Rajah of Assam be made acquainted with these resolutions, and that it be left to his option to meet the chiefs, in case they should assemble in conformity to the notification, or to remain with the detachment. That if he should prefer meeting the chiefs, he is to receive no particular support, but such protection only as is afforded to the others in general.

6. That Captain Welsh be directed to withdraw any controul that he may have exercised over the internal government of Assam, and that he confine himself to afford protection to the chiefs in case they should assemble.

32. The capture of Rangpore, the capital of Assam, or rather the evacuation of it on the approach of the detachment, which had taken place before Captain Welsh's receipt of the foregoing instructions, and the proceedings held by us in consequence, will be fully made known to your Honorable Court by the accompaniment already referred to; and we confidently assure ourselves you will approve the orders issued by us.

Burmas.

33. Our last address advised you of the instructions given to Colonel Erskine for expelling the Burmas who had invaded the Company's territory on the border of Chittagong, and of his arrival in that district in the beginning of March.

34. We are now happy in being able to inform your Honorable Court that the necessity of executing these instructions, which were discretionary, to be regulated by circumstances and local intelligence, has been obviated by an explanation on the part of the Burma officers (which Colonel Erskine in the first instance and ourselves, on his and the Magistrate's references to us, considered sufficient, and combined with their peaceable conduct to establish what their previous letters and preparations gave no reason to believe) that they had no hostile intention in their entrance with an armed force into the Company's territory, but had pursued some fugitive subjects of the King of Ava, charged with having committed depredations within his conquered dominions of Pegu and Aracan, under an erroneous conception of the line of boundary which divides the latter country from the Company's district of Chittagong.

35. We beg leave to refer to the accompanying copies of our proceedings and correspondence for a detail of the circumstances which have attended this apparent invasion and still obscure transaction since the date of our last

28. The Resident has now been desired to express our anxiety for the speedy commencement of such an arrangement, but to recommend it in the first instance to the Ministers, as we are sensible that any plan of reform must originate with them, and cannot be executed without their assistance. At the same time he has been desired to communicate his opinion how far the Ministers are disposed to act up to the suggestions of Marquis Cornwallis, and possess abilities and influence for the execution of them.

He has also been reminded that the terms of our connection with the Vizier preclude a direct interference in the internal arrangement of his administration, and desired, by means of a friendly and confidential intercourse with the Nabob and his Ministers, to endeavour to establish such a personal influence as may give weight to our suggestions.

Assam.

29. Your Honorable Court has been already fully advised of our former proceedings respecting Assam; and the accompanying copies of our late correspondence with Captain Welsh, including a minute from the Governor General recorded on the 19th March, and the corresponding instructions on it for limiting the continuance of the detachment in that country to the 1st July next, will convey the latest information on this head.

30. Our resolutions on the above date, for the grounds of which we beg leave to refer to the minute preceding them, were founded on principles which are not at all affected by the alteration of circumstances referred to in Captain Welsh's subsequent letters of the 21st and 25th ultimo. We have directed him, therefore, in our last orders, to consider these instructions in full force, and to conform to them in every respect as far as may be practicable, adding that we will not consent to his remaining in Assam longer than the period fixed under any other consideration than that the return of the detachment at that time would be attended with serious danger, not to be obviated by proper precautions.

31. The resolutions referred to were in substance the following propositions offered by the Governor General after an attentive perusal and consideration of all the proceedings respecting Assam, and had in view, next to the principal object of withdrawing our detachment, the employment of which in the affairs of Assam had, from unforeseen circumstances, been protracted beyond the probable limits of the temporary interference originally intended, to allow the chiefs of that unsettled country an opportunity of availing themselves of the humanity of our interposition before it was finally withdrawn:—

1. That the first day of July next be the period fixed for the return of the battalion within our provinces, and that Captain Welsh be positively directed to hold himself in readiness for commencing his march from Assam on or before that date.

2. That Captain Welsh be restricted from undertaking all offensive operations whatever; that he be prohibited [from] advancing to the capital of Assam, and be directed to return to his former station at Kolleabar, or any other situation nearer the Company's provinces which he may judge most eligible.

ships of the above squadron, that of detaining them in India for purposes of general protection.

39. The information received from Captain Light of the success of the enemy's cruisers to the eastward will be communicated to your Honorable Court in our separate address from the Publick Department, in which the whole of our correspondence relative to the Andamans and Prince of Wales Island has been heretofore recorded; and we hasten to conclude this letter by a reference to the list of packet only regarding the following papers received from the Persian Translator's Office for transcription by this dispatch.

1. Original of a letter from the Nizam to His Majesty accompanied by an English translation.

2. Original of a letter from the Munny Begum to the Honorable East India Company accompanied by a translation.

3. Original of a letter from the Nabob of Bengal to the Honorable the Court of Directors accompanied by an English translation.

Fort William,
May 15th, 1794.

We have the honor to be,
Honorable Sirs,
Your most faithful humble servants,

(*Per Sugarcane.*)

Signed. Governor and Council.

33

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 31 MAY 1794

The Nawab of Arcot's demand for the services of palegar peons, and complaints against Col. Floyd, the Commanding Officer at Trichinopoly—Growing enmity between Azim-ul-Umara and Nana Phadnis: the Peshwa's demands evaded by Hyderabad contrary to British advice—Arrangements for the punctual payment of peshkash to the Nizam in respect of the Guntur Sarkar—In spite of the Moamaria rebellion, orders given to Welsh to leave Assam on the date already fixed.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Having addressed you by the *Sugarcane* so recently as the 15th instant, it is nearly sufficient to transmit you by the *Boddington's*, now under dispatch, a triplicate of our Political Letter of the above date. We subjoin however the following short recital of the principal occurrences since recorded in our proceedings in this Department, and detailed in the copies and extracts which will accompany this address.

address, and will here add only that part of the force detached with Colonel Erskine has been already recalled, and the remainder, we hope, may soon be withdrawn, unless it should be judged advisable to keep part of it for a frontier station to guard against the possibility of a similar event of uncertain consequence hereafter, for a determination on which we wait the result of further local enquiries in which Colonel Erskine is now engaged, at the same time that he is co-operating with the Magistrate in bringing the accused refugees from Aracan to a full and impartial trial.

Miscellanea.

36. We transmit, a number in the packet, a continuation of our proceedings on the address from the merchants and agents of Calcutta noticed in our last dispatch; and also copies of a letter and enclosures on the same subject received from the Governor in Council at Bombay, with our reply.

37. Our resolution on the second letter from the former, after the Governor General's conference with them, was to the following effect: that

19th March. we professed every inclination to meet the wishes of the merchants of this settlement in giving effectual protection to the commercial interests of the nation in India; but, for this purpose, were of opinion that a naval force sufficient to cope with the greatest collective strength of the French was necessary. That the only vessels at the disposal of Government were those employed under Captain Mitchell, to which, in our opinion, an addition of at least two ships of equal force with the *Fort William* (a country ship offered for this service) would be requisite. That the return of Captain Mitchell had already exceeded the utmost limits of probable expectation, and the period of it was too uncertain to be relied upon. That considering this uncertainty, the expence which Government had already incurred in the equipment, and the addition which must arise from the further detention to these ships in India, including a reasonable compensation to the commanders and officers of those vessels for the disappointment of their prospects. Under these circumstances, we could not agree to take up any of the vessels mentioned in the address of the merchants under the certainty of subjecting the Company to an expence of which so small a proportion appeared likely to be defrayed by their contributions.

38. Our answer to the Government of Bombay accompanies the copy of their letter to us; and to what is contained in it respecting the squadron under Cominodore Mitchell, which the merchants of Bombay were desirous of having continued in the Straits of Malaca, we can only add that we have yet received no further information respecting it. From the length of time which has elapsed, and which now exceeded the period for which the ships composing this squadron were provided with stores, we conclude they must have proceeded to Bencoolen and round the west coast of Sumatra; and under this conclusion, the mere delay in their return suggests no apprehension, as in this event they could not be reasonably expected to arrive here before this time. We shall not however conceal the reports received here of the very great force of the French on the west coast of Sumatra; and are happy that the naval force which we are taught to expect in India superceded the necessity of agitating the question noticed in our last address as likely to occur on the return of the

with that first delivered by him, with the addition of his own seal and signature, he wished to have our recommendation on the subject previous to its being forwarded to Tippoo Sultaun. The Resident, at the same time, added it was in his own opinion a matter of little importance which of the two counterparts of the treaty was delivered, as the only difference between them was that the copy desired by Tippoo erroneously expressed that the Paishwa's counterpart should bear both his seal and signature, and those of Hurreeram Pundit, whereas the other (conformable to the original treaty and the counterparts exchanged by the other allied parties to it, but different from the imperfect counterpart first given by the Nizam's Minister) specified the seal of the Paishwa and the signature of Hurreepunt instead of the seal and signature of both.

7. Considering the unimportance of this difference, which, as correct counterparts have been returned by the other two confederate powers, cannot be of any essential consequence, and as it is possible a similar error may have occurred in the original triplicate treaty delivered by the Nizam to Tippoo, we were of opinion that, in compliance with the wish of the latter, the last counterpart sent by the Nizam containing the error referred to, but duly executed by the Nizam and Azeem ul Omrah, should be transmitted to him in reply to the application made by his *vakeels* through Captain Doveton; and we accordingly recommended to the Governor in Council of Fort St. George to take early measures for this purpose, returning the other counterpart to the Resident at Hyderabad, whom we at the same time advised, for the information of the Nizam, of this recommendation.

8. Since our last address in which we noticed Captain Doveton's intention of coming round to Bengal, he has arrived here; and we have the honor to transmit, as numbered in the list of packet, two letters brought by him from Tippoo Sultaun to Marquis Cornwallis with the translations, and also the translate of a letter addressed by the Sultaun to the present Governor General. These letters confirm the information given by Captain Doveton of the sense entertained by Tippoo of the kind treatment of his sons as communicated in our last address.

9. In the accompanying copies of letters from the Resident at Poonah, your Honorable Court will observe that reports have reached him of the Paishwa's intention to meet Bajcerow, the son of the late Ragonaut Row, whose mother Aunundee Bye is lately dead; and it is thought that this event, by removing the principal source of instigation to ambitious views in her son, may afford an opening to a reconciliation between the two branches of the Paishwa family, whose dissensions have been productive of so many evils to the Marhatta State. Should this reconciliation take place, the Resident thinks it probable that the conduct of the Marhatta armies and politicks to the north would be delegated to the young Bajcerow with a view of bringing the power of the Holkar and Sindeca families, as well as the force now commanded by Ally Behader, under the controul of the Poonah Court, but it is needless to pursue conclusions from premises which may prove without foundation; and we, for the same reason, forbear to add any comment on a further report noticed by the Resident at Poonah in his accompanying address of the 21st ultimo to the Resident at Hyderabad, that the ill will between the Minister of this (*viz.*, the Poonah) Court and Azeem ul Omrah has risen to the height of putting a

Fort St. George and Bombay.

2. In our correspondence with the former of these Presidencies you will observe a reference made to us, both by the Governor in Council and the Nabob of Arcot, relative to a requisition from the latter to the Rajah of Calastry, one of the poligars who by the treaty concluded with the Nabob in July, 1793, pays his revenue to the Company, to furnish an armed force for the purpose of chastizing the Polygar of Magraul, not included in the above treaty.

May 28th.

3. The Nabob's right to the services of the polygar peons required by him being indisputable, we requested the Governor in Council to instruct the Rajah of Calastry to comply with any further requisition which may be made to him in every practicable extent which the security of the collections may allow; and the Governor General wrote a suitable letter to the Nabob informing him of this request, but at the same time suggesting to His Highness's consideration the possibility of obstruction to the collections of the polygar districts made by the Company's officers by withdrawing from them any considerable number of peons; and under the persuasion that it was not his wish to occasion such impediment, either by demanding the peons when not essentially requisite, or a greater number than could be spared without inconvenience, intimating that it would be satisfactory if His Highness, upon such points, would receive the opinion of the Government of Fort St. George.

4. The correspondence referred to also contains a representation from the Nabob of Arcot of acts stated to be injurious as well as unusual on the part of Commanding Officer of the troops at Trichinopoly, Colonel Floyd¹. But having no information on this subject from the Government of Madras, we could only refer His Highness to the latter, with an assurance of the immediate removal, as far as possible, of any inconveniences he had reason to complain of; and at the same time notified to the Governor in Council our confidence in his having taken measures for this purpose, particularly in those instances wherein the Nabob's religious prejudices might be supposed to be affected.

5. You will likewise find in the accompanying correspondence with Fort St. George, the latest intelligence communicated to us from Mysore, and copy of a letter from the first officer of the *Pigot* Indiaman; but on the capture of the latter, as well as respecting the squadron under Captain Mitchell, we shall address you more particularly with our dispatches from the Public Department, in which are recorded our late advices from Bencoolen.

Tippoo Sultaun, Marhattas, and Nizam.

6. In November last the Resident at Hyderabad advised us of his having received information from the Secretary at Fort St. George, that the *vakeels* of Tippoo Sultaun had returned an amended counterpart of the Treaty of Seringapatam bearing the seal and signature of the Nizam and Azeem ul Omrah on the ground of its being different from the imperfect copy of this treaty which the Nizam had before transmitted under the seal and signature of his Minister only, and that, though the Nizam had in consequence deposited with the Government of Fort St. George a further counterpart corresponding

them the instructions, which your Honorable Court will find at length, as well as our directions at the same time to the Resident at Hyderabad, in our accompanying correspondence with the latter, whom we have desired to furnish the Governor in Council at Fort St. George with a statement of the arrears due to the Nizam, as well as to inform His Highness of the measures we have taken for the discharge of them.

16. We have advised the Madras Government that we consider this article of disbursement to have the first claim to consideration after the pay of their troops, and being desirous of effacing from the mind of the Nizam all recollection of our former want of punctuality, have requested them to be particularly careful to provide for the discharge of each *kist* as it may become due, or should the state of their finances at that juncture and the difficulty of raising money by loan prevent their undertaking the payment of the amount due for the present, the Resident at Hyderabad, on being so advised, will draw upon us for whatever sums may be immediately wanted for this purpose. We have also expressed our wish that they would make the payments in *Arcot* rupees, being the coin in which the *paishcush* was fixed; but that, should they find it necessary to make them in gold, we think the Nizam entitled to receive it at whatever may be the market rate of exchange between *Arcot* rupees and *pagodas* on the day of payment.

17. Before concluding this part of our address, comprizing our recent correspondence with the Residents at Poonah and Hyderabad, we must request the attention of your Honorable Court to a letter from the former dated the 21st ultimo, enclosing copies of letters that had passed between the Bombay Government and him relative to the cattle, packsaddles, and other articles provided by him in the late war, and requesting they might be communicated through us to your Honorable Court.

18. In compliance with this request we transmitted copies of these letters in our last dispatch by the *Sugarcane*, as this opportunity immediately offered of forwarding them, though we had not then time to consider and remark on them. We have since given them due consideration, and think it just to declare to your Honorable Court, as we have already done to Sir C. W. Malet, our perfect conviction that he was induced by zeal for the publick service to undertake the extra-official duty which has been the subject of his correspondence with the Bombay Government, as well as that he executed it with fidelity. The testimony of the Commander in Chief, Sir R. Abercromby, proves the great utility and success of his exertions. At the same time we could not but express our disapprobation of the terms in which Sir C. W. Malet has addressed the Governor in Council at Bombay on this occasion.

Northwest Provinces, Vizier's dominions &c.

19. We submit copies of our late correspondence with the Resident at Lucknow; but it contains nothing of consequence requiring distinct notice in this place.

Burmahs.

20. Our late proceedings contain no further information relative to the *Burmahs*, except an intimation from Colonel Erskine has forwarded the letter addressed by the Governor General to the King.

to the intercourse of letters ; and that this Minister is employing every means in his power to weaken or entirely overset the other's influence in His Highness's (the Nizam's) councils.

10. The enclosed correspondence with the Resident at Hyderabad since our last address will inform your Honorable Court of the continuation of occurrences on the litigated points then communicated between the Nizam and the Paishwa, and the following is the substance of our instructions to the Resident at Hyderabad on the 19th instant.

11. That the correspondence between the Paishwa and Nizam submitted by him does not appear to us to contain any claims on the part of the former which ought to be the source of any serious disagreement between the two Courts, as the ground of the claims² is in general admitted by the Nizam, and the question relates principally to the quantum of the demand upon him. That it appears to us at the same time there is not only a reluctance but even evasion on the part of Azeem ul Omrah in bringing the claims of the Peshwa to a fair and final adjustment, and the correspondence, upon the whole, as far as we can understand it, affords no grounds for the Nizam's appeal to our interposition, as it requires nothing more than good intentions and suitable exertions in the part of Azim ul Omrah to adjust the claim of the Peshwah in a satisfactory manner. The discussion is not however throughout sufficiently clear to decide this point with certainty.

12. That with respect to this communication and any others of a similar nature, the only general line of conduct we can prescribe is that in all cases where the Peshwah appears to have justice on his side, or when the right of his claims is admitted, he (the Resident) should strongly urge Azeemull Omrah to a speedy and fair adjustment of them ; where, on the other hand, the demands of the Marhattah Minister appear to him unreasonable or unjust, that he should advise Azim ul Omrah to discuss them with temper and moderation, as it is in such cases only that we can interpose our good offices with propriety in favor of the Nizam.

13. That the jealousy and enmity subsisting between Balajee Pundit and Azeem ul Omrah require the strictest attention to this line of conduct.

14. That we perfectly agree with him that the contest between our Allies has not yet by any means reached that critical point at which alone it would be proper for us to interpose our mediation in a direct and explicit manner, and shall be happy if that necessity should never exist ; that the moderation of Meer Allum, whom it was proposed to depute to Poonah, seems well calculated to effect the desired adjustment between the Nizam and Peshwah, provided the instructions of his commission are fair and explicit ; and that at all events, he should endeavour, as favourable opportunities offer, to impress Azeem ul Omrah with a conviction that his embarrassments will increase in proportion as that adjustment is retarded.

15. The late Resident at Hyderabad, Sir John Kennaway, in a letter dated the 10th November last, pointed out to us a very heavy loss attending the payment of the Nizam's *paishcush* for the Guntoor *Sirkar*³ from this Presidency ; and it has also, on consideration, appeared to us to be more properly a charge appertaining to Fort St. George. We have therefore resolved to leave the future payment of it to the Madras Government, and have transmitted

the *Sugarcane* and *Boddington's*. You will also receive by this dispatch a continuation of our proceedings to the end of June.

Fort Saint George.

2. In the 2d and succeeding paragraphs of our letter of 18th May, 1793, we advised you of the circumstances that had led to orders issued at Madras for the sequestration of the Zemindary of Viziamam Rauze, and of the authority we had given to the Government of Fort St. George to take such measures as might appear necessary to bring him to a proper sense of his duty, and procure ample justice to the Company, according to your instructions of the 19th of September, 1792.

Cons. 13th June. 3. In June last we received a letter from the Governor in Council advising us that the impatience of this Zemindar, under the suspension of his authority, had for some months been particularly marked; in the progress of the measures adopted for the settlement of the country, that a counteraction, evidently proceeding from his influence, deterred persons of every description from coming forward with proposals for renting it; and that, at length, at the recommendation of the Board of Revenue, under a conviction that no settlement whatever could be made, or any one purpose of the sequestration accomplished, without the removal of Viziamam Rauze, he had been directed to repair to the Presidency, but that, in direct disobedience to this order, he had retired to Pudmanabum near the hills, and his conduct manifested a strong disposition to throw off his allegiance to the Company.

Consn. 15th June. 4. The Governor in Council thought it prudent in consequence to take measures for strengthening the force in the district; and we acquainted him that we approved of his having done so, though we hoped that the Zemindar might be brought to a compliance with his requisitions without the employment of a military force.

5. We have since been advised by the Government of Fort. St. George in a letter dated the 18th ultimo (copies of which and its enclosures, with copies of the letter and papers already referred to, will form a number in this dispatch) that a few days after Viziamam Rauze had retired to Pudmanabum, he addressed a letter to the President stating his reasons for proceeding thither, to which an immediate reply was given, pointing out the certain ruin that would fall upon himself and his adherents in the event of his perseverance, and admonishing him to avert so serious a consequence as the Company's displeasure by immediately proceeding with his common attendants to Vizagapatam; that the Rajah, however, neither returned any answer to the President's letter, nor paid the smallest attention to his advice, and, though repeatedly called upon to act in obedience to the orders sent to him, continued deaf to every remonstrance, collected a considerable force at Pudmanabum, and waited the approach of Lieutenant Colonel Prendergast, who, according to instructions from the Council at Vizagapatam, marched towards him on the morning of the 10th of last month, and finding his troops armed and prepared for hostilities attacked them, after a conflict, which continued for about three quarters of an hour, he dispersed them, and it appears that the Rajah was killed with many of his followers.

Assam.

21. The accompanying copies of letters from Captain Welsh and extracts from our proceedings on them will advise your Honorable Court of the continuation of our resolutions on the subject of the prize property taken at Rungpore, the capital of Assam, as well as of the explanations given by Captain Welsh and Lieutenant Macgregor on this subject, and respecting the engagement between the latter and the Moamareeahs,⁴ which in the first instance met the disapprobation of his immediate Commanding Officer, [and] afterwards induced us to recal him to the station of his battalion of Berhampore, as well as to abolish his appointment of Assistant to the deputation to Assam.

22. The papers referred to also contain Captain Welsh's communications of his further proceedings towards the Moamareeahs, who by their hostile conduct compelled him to attack and disperse them, as well as his intentions of conforming without delay to our instructions for his moving the detachment toward our frontier preparatory to withdrawing it altogether from Assam by the 1st July next. Begging leave to refer to these communications for a detail which would be imperfectly stated in abstract, we conceive it sufficient to remark that our resolutions have been conformable to and conformatory of those already pointed in our last address.

Fort William,
May 31st, 1794.
(*Per Boddington.*)

We have the honor to be &c.,
(Signed) John Shore, Bart. / Peter Speke.

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 18 AUGUST 1794

Suppression of the Raja of Vijayanagaram's revolt—Rannad-Shivaganga disputes—Malabar: European inhabitants and the administration of justice; causes for the insufficiency of the revenues and measures to improve the same—Capt. Doveton, held in high esteem by Tipu, to be the channel of communication with him—Poona-Hyderabad friction weakening the Triple Alliance: Company's advice to the Nizam to compose his differences with the Peshwa—The question of acquiring Cambay—Daulat Rao Sindia anxious to continue diplomatic relations with the Company—Oudh: faint hopes of reform; the Vazir advised to allow Rampur Jagir to pass to the eldest son of Faizullah Khan—Withdrawal of Capt. Welsh from Assam in spite of the Raja's entreaties—Progress of the investigation of the charges against the Burmese fugitives.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have the honor of transmitting to you by the *Nancy* copies of our last letters from this Department, dated the 15th and 31st of May, and sent by

which had occasioned a remonstrance from the Paishwa, that the Mayor's Court at that Presidency had issued a writ of summons addressed to two subjects of the Marhatta State residing in Poona, and that one of them named Trimbak, who had gone upon occasional business to Bombay, had been imprisoned there in the common goal. We also advised you of the instructions we had given on this subject to the Bombay Government and Resident at Poona, and of our intention to resume the business when we had received the opinion of our Advocate General upon certain points referred to him for his opinion upon them.

11. We have now the honor to transmit for your further information
 1st April, a copy of his opinion, and of our consequent instructions
 18th June to the Governor in Council of Bombay.

12. The Resident at Poona was furnished with copies of these papers, and desired to communicate the orders contained in them to the Paishwa, with an explanation of the delay that had arisen in deciding on the subject, and to signify at the same time the assistance in Lord Cornwallis's letter to Sir Charles Malet of the 14th of February, 1793, would, with the present instructions, satisfy the Court of Poona that we had not been inattentive to its representations as to the necessity of repairing the unauthorized acts of the Mayor's Court towards one of its subjects.

13. In consequence of our instructions to the Governor in Council of Bombay for the future administration of the province of Malabar (copies of which were transmitted to you with our letter of the 19th of May last) he informed us that doubts had arisen upon the legality of trying British subjects by any other mode than by the courts established by the laws of England, and desired from us an explanation whether the inhabitants of Malabar should be considered as subjects of the tributary Rajah of that province or as British subjects. Copies of our answer to the *secretary* and of the letter from the Bombay Government will be sent numbers in the packet; but we shall subjoin for your immediate information the substance of our decision on the question stated to us: that, on the first point, we had no hesitation in declaring our opinion that, in all cases of criminal jurisprudence, British subjects cannot be legally tried for offences cognizable by British courts but by such courts and in the mode prescribed by the laws of England.

14. To their question on the second point we replied that the native inhabitants of Malabar, as well as all other persons resident in that province, not the natural born or naturalized subjects of the Crown of England, are not within the description of British subjects noticed in the several Acts of the Crown and Legislature respecting the Company's possessions in India, to which of course their question had reference.

15. In continuation of the papers forwarded to you by the *Sugarcane* relative to the province of Malabar, we now enclose copies of the answer received from the Governor in Council of Bombay to our general instructions of the 27th of March, and of our reply of the annexed
 Cons. 25th July, date, authorizing the establishment of two commercial
 Residencies at Mahe and Calicut. You have already been advised of

6. To enable us to form an accurate opinion upon this transaction, and to transmit a satisfactory report on it to your Honorable Court, we have desired the Governor in Council of Fort St. George to furnish us with complete copies of the whole of his proceedings, and those of the Board of Revenue and Council at Vizagapatam, which preceded the sequestration of the Zemindary of Vizearam Rauze, and the order for his personal attendance at Madras. But in doing so, we have not meant to express any disapprobation of the proceedings as far as they have yet come to our knowledge, which, as already mentioned, we approved on the grounds stated to us to the extent they had then gone, resisting the use of force against the Zemindar unless it should be found absolutely necessary.

7. The Governor in Council at Fort Saint George communicated to us the very improper conduct of the Rajah of Ramnaud, who, in defiance of the Nabob's and the Company's authority, had taken up arms against the *Cherocar* of Shevigunga,¹ and called to his assistance several of the polygars of Tinnievelly, by whose aid he invaded his neighbour's territory and desolated many of its villages. The enclosed papers in the subject will satisfy your Honorable Court of the mischievous consequences that have already attended a conduct so unjustifiable on the part of the Rajah of Ramnaud, and it is only necessary to add here that, as advice and remonstrance have proved of no avail, we have concurred with the Government of Fort St. George in the necessity of taking decided steps for supporting the authority of the Nabob, and restoring the peace of the country.

8. Observing at the same time from the papers transmitted to us that the Rajah of Ramnaud asserts a claim to the territory of Shevigunga as having belonged to his ancestors, we have thought it proper to have him informed that, although he cannot be allowed to take justice into his own hands, and his refractory conduct might justify a confiscation of the lands in his possession, he may be assured of an impartial investigation of any pretensions he may have to Shevigunga on his submitting the same to the Nabob, who indeed had before desired him to state them for that purpose.

9. After having completed the demolition of the fortifications at Pondicherry according to the recommendation of Marquis Cornwallis, the Governor in Council of Fort St. George submitted to us how far it might be expedient to destroy such of the publick buildings in the town, as, in the event of its restoration to the French, might, if not demolished, rather encourage the French Government, at a future period, to re-fortify the place. The public buildings alluded to were the barracks, arsenal, magazines and hospital. We were of opinion that the whole of the publick buildings that could be serviceable in re-establishing a military force at Pondicherry should be completely destroyed, and, accordingly, requested the Governor in Council to issue orders for that purpose, excepting only the buildings that might be indispensibly necessary for the temporary accommodation of such of our own troops as he might think it necessary to continue there.

Bombay.

10. In the 67th and following paragraphs of our letter dated the 18th May, 1793, we informed you of the particulars of a transaction at Bombay

grounds on which these establishments were proposed, and it is only necessary to add with regard to the allowances of the Residents, who are to be restricted from having any commercial concerns on their own account and are consequently entitled to a liberal recompence for their services, that, being doubtful of your approving of the payment of a commission to these officers in England as recommended by the Governor in Council of Bombay, we preferred the adoption of the principle observed in regulating the allowances of the commercial Residents in Bengal, which, in addition to a monthly salary of 500 rupees and an allowance 120 rupees per month for house rent, where there are no houses belonging to the Company for their accommodation, grants them a commission of five per cent, payable in India on the invoice price (exclusive of the charges of transportation and passage) of the goods provided by them, excepting filature silk on which a commission of 10 per cent is given on the first lack of rupees and 5 per cent on the further provision of this article.

16. We further transmit for the information of your Honorable Court copies of sundry papers which we have received from Bombay relative to concessions made to the northern Rajahs of the Malabar Province by the late Supravisor, Mr. Farmer, and stated to have been attended with a considerable loss of revenue to the Company, also a copy of the instructions we sent upon the subject on the 28th of May. We have not yet decided upon the letters since received containing Mr. Farmer's explanations, being in expectation of further communications from the Bombay Government and Mr. Stevens, the present Supravisor, as well respecting the arrangements made by Mr. Farmer in the present year as in answer to the reference to them on the expediency of concluding a permanent settlement from the commencement of the year ensuing.

Consn. 28th May,
14th July.

17. In the meantime, you will observe from our letter already mentioned that, referring to our instructions of the 27th of March which sufficiently pointed out the general principles for conducting the affairs of the Malabar Province as well as the specific rules and regulations to be attended to in the administration of it, we have directed that the concessions made by Mr. Farmer in every instance where they were contrary to the regulations, or to the agreements between the Rajahs and the Company, should be revoked, unless the circumstances of Malabar, when these instructions reached the Supravisor, should be such as to render the revocation immediately hazardous. But if, from an apprehension of danger, or in the confidence of more effectually re-establishing the rights and revenues of the Company as they existed previous to the concessions of Mr. Farmer, he should be induced to temporize, he is to consider it an object ultimately to be effected, and to adopt his measures to the attainment of it, shewing that it ought not, on any account, to be deferred beyond the expiration of the present Malabar year, ending in September next.

Tippoo Sultaun, the Marrattas and Nizam Ally Khan.

18. With our address of 31st of May you will receive translations of the letters brought by Captain Doveton from Tippoo Sultaun; and we now transmit

a copy of the Governor General's answer, with copies of two letters written at the same time to Captain Doveton and the Governor in Council of Fort St. George.

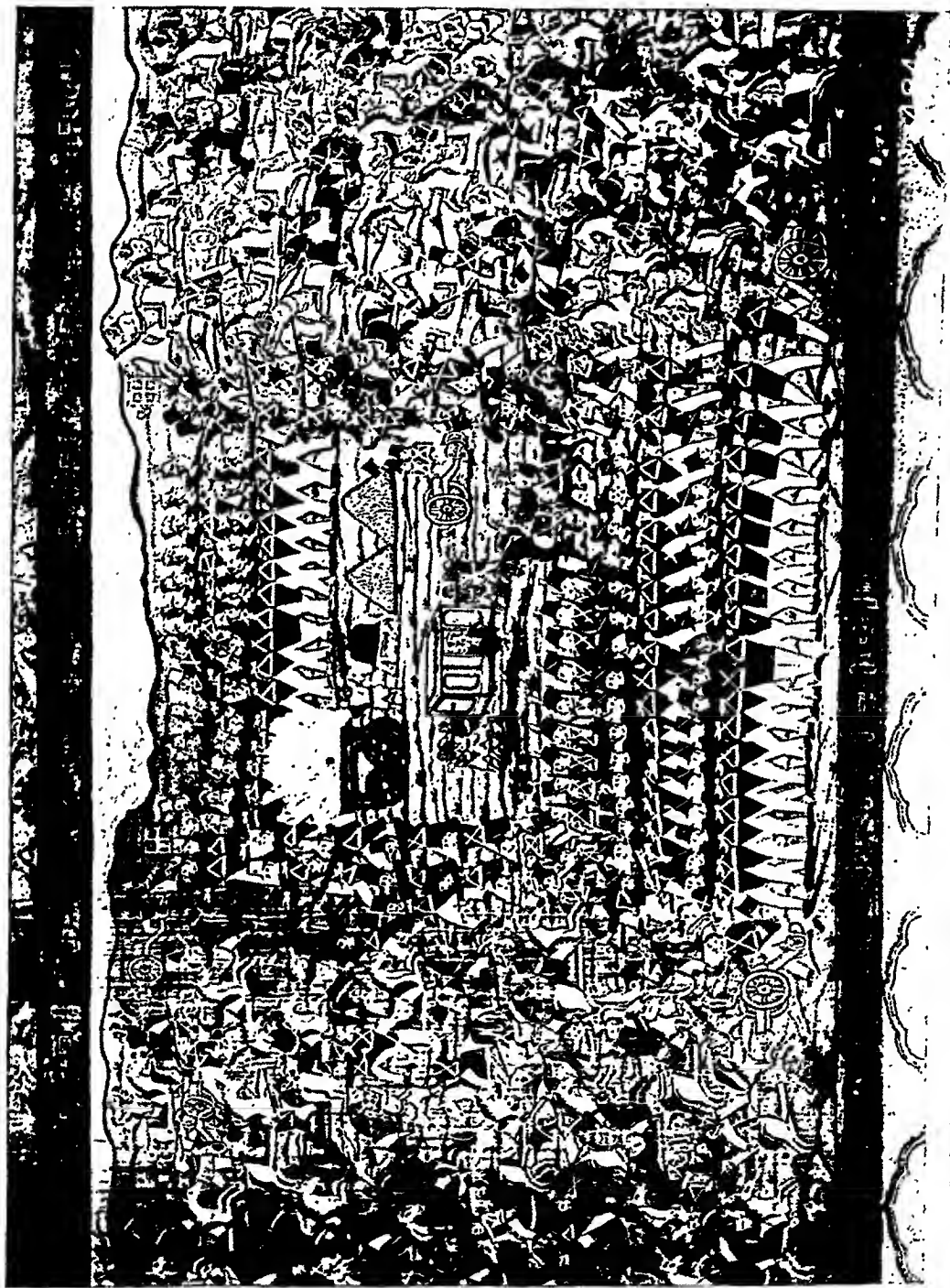
19. In consequence of the wish expressed by Tippoo for the continuance of Captain Doveton's mediation as a means of friendly intercourse, and considering also the convenience of his situation for that purpose during his command at Rayacotta, we have acquiesced in his being made the channel of correspondence with Tippoo Sultaun during his residence at the station, and we have requested the Governor in Council at Fort St. George, under whose orders he is to act, to furnish him with the necessary instructions, observing however that we do not propose that his employment on this occasional service should be attended with any charge to Government beyond what may be necessary for letter carriers and other official servants.

20. In our choice of Captain Doveton for this service, we were influenced by the great satisfaction he had afforded us in the execution of the trust assigned to him from the period that Lord Cornwallis deputed him to attend the sons of Tippoo during their hostage, and in some degree by the mention made of him by Tippoo himself, who may be presumed to entertain a proper sense of his conduct toward those princes.

21. While we are writing relative to this officer, we must request your attention to the subject of a letter from him, dated the 6th of June, and our resolutions upon it of the annexed date. His personal allowance whilst in charge of the hostage princes (*vizt.* from the 1st March, 1792, to the 1st March, 1794) having been fixed by the Marquis Cornwallis at 150 *pagodas* per mensem, we did not consider ourselves at liberty to make any addition to it; but having the fullest confidence in his declaration that his expences during this period amounted to 350 *pagodas* per mensem, and his execution of the duty committed to him having, as we have mentioned, been throughout in the highest degree satisfactory, we recommend to your Honorable Court that he may be reimbursed his expences amounting to 350 *pagodas* per mensem during the above period, in addition to his personal monthly allowance of 150 *pagodas*. We agreed to allow Captain Doveton 1,500 rupees per mensem from the 1st of March, 1794, when he left Madras with the princes to the time of his return to that Presidency in the month ensuing, and it has been paid to him accordingly.

22. The accompanying copies of letters and their enclosures from the Secretary at Fort St. George will advise your Honorable Court of the ordinary intelligence received from Mysore; and we have at present nothing further to communicate respecting it.

23. Excepting the formal investiture of Dowlut Row Sindia with the *sicca*, *kuttar*, and other insignia of delegation, which were withheld at the time of his being invested with the succession to the late Mahajee Sindia (the particulars of which are communicated in Mr. Assistant Uthoff's letter of 12th of May), and the information relative to the present state of the Nizam's family and his probable successor, as brought before us in a letter from Captain Kirkpatrick, dated the 27th of June, the only material parts of



Painting on the west wall of Daria Daulat or Tipu's summer palace at Srirangapatam

war with the latter on his account without a direct violation of the prescriptions of the Legislature. Thus admitting the propriety and policy of supporting him against the Marhattas, the limitations for our conduct are positively defined; and these considerations point out the subsisting confederacy between the three States as the most eligible ground of amicable interposition to prevent a rupture between the Nizam and the Peishwah.

"When our first instructions upon this subject were communicated, we had reason to suppose that the Mahratta Minister, exasperated by the conduct of Azim ul Omrah in connecting himself closely with Mahajee Sindiah at a period when that chieftain was attempting to assume a predominancy in the Poonah Administration, instigated by the long subsisting enmity between himself and Azim ul Omrah, and tempted by the weakness of the Nizam, had advanced claims upon His Highness, founded in the motives which we have stated rather than in right, and as such that they were liable to be considered exactions. But the claims of the Mahrattas, whatever modifications they may be liable to, even from the statement which the Nizam has given of them, appear to have a reference both to right and argument, and, although the principle of our eventual interposition is not affected by this explanation, it is necessary to attend to it if our interference should take place.

"From the general tenor of Azim ul Omrah's character it was obvious to conclude that, when he entertained hopes of our support, or could suppose the Poonah Government would be influenced by an idea that it would be granted, he would not be serious in his endeavours to bring the differences between the Nizam and Peshwah to a termination. This conclusion has been proved by his conduct, which appears to have been a compromise between his apprehensions, his pride, and his vanity; and whatever reliance he may affect to have upon the power of the Nizam opposed in hostility to that of the Peshwah, he is but too sensible of the superiority of the latter. This conviction, combined with other motives, naturally suggests the endeavour on his part to obtain the support of our mediation as umpire in his disputes with the Poonah Minister. The latter, on the contrary, will be equally disinclined to such interposition.

"We should by no means wish, even with the consent of both parties, to undertake the decision between them, except as the only means of preventing hostilities; and without their mutual consent, the offer of our mediation as umpire might expose us to the discredit of rejection. If, however, in the course of discussion between the Peshwa and the Nizam, they should both express a wish for our umpirage, an event which we consider highly improbable, we will not object to undertake it as the only means of preventing war between them, upon this condition that they previously agree upon the statement of their claims and differences to be referred to the decision of this Government, as, without such statement accompanied by the documents appealed to, it would be impossible even to decide."

[26A.] Whilst these reflections so evidently shew the delicacy and difficulty attending any interposition on our part, the probable necessity of it is as great as ever, though the Nizam has at length deputed Meer Allum with powers sufficient to make an equitable adjustment as far as depends on him, for there is reason to apprehend that the advantages which might have resulted from

our correspondence with the Residents at Poonah and Hyderabad respect the dispute between the Peshwa and Nizam Ally Khan, and a negotiation intended to counteract a supposed design of the Marattas to possess themselves of the province of Cambay as well as, under certain circumstances, to obtain a transfer of this port and town with the territory attached to it to the Company.

24. You have been already informed of the nature of the controversy subsisting between the Courts of Poonah and Hydrabad; and for the particulars of the recent occurrences as well as of the line of conduct prescribed to your Resident at these places, we beg leave to refer to the accompanying copies of their letters, and of the Governor General's instructions to them, under dates the 9th of June, 3d and 28th July, and 8th instant.

25. You will observe from the tenor of our present and former dispatches that it is by no means our wish to interfere between these two powers as long as it can be prudently avoided, that is, until their disagreements shall attain such a length as to threaten immediate rupture and hostilities between them; and in such event our instructions to the Resident at Poona are to obtain a conference with the Minister, and represent to him: "That, as a common friend and ally of the Paishwah and the Nizam, we have long viewed, with the greatest concern, the differences which have prevailed between them, and, in this capacity, cannot avoid expressing to both our sincere wishes for an amicable termination of their mutual claims. That, being united by treaty in the same confederacy, motives of interest concur with our regard for the welfare of the two States to prevent a disunion which cannot take place without injury to the interests of the confederates, and which, for a time at least, if pushed to the length of hostilities, would retard the object of that alliance, if a necessity occurred for carrying into execution the conditions of it. That hostilities between the Nizam and Peishwa might prove a temptation to call forth that necessity, and, at all events, must weaken the parties engaged in it. That we do not wish to give any opinion on the rights or claims of the Peishwa or the Nizam, or to interpose further than as a common friend. That as such the present representation becomes an obligation which we discharge with the more confidence as it can only originate in the motives we profess, that of a regard for both parties and an anxiety to preserve the means of carrying into effect the stipulations in the Treaties of Poonah and Paungal if necessity should require it."

26. Our instructions to the Resident at Hydrabad were to the following effect: "The annihilation of the independency of the Nizam, whether by the power of the Peishwa or Tippoo Sultaun, cannot be effected without danger to the Company's possessions in India, and it is therefore our interest to afford him support. With respect to Tippoo Sultaun, the Nizam derives a security from the confederacy which he does not possess in himself. With respect to the Marhattas, he has no such protection, and they have every advantage over him, both from the wisdom of their councils and the superiority of actual force.

"Without discussing the question how far it would be wise or politic to afford him support against the Peshwah at the risque of hostilities with the Marhattas, it is sufficient to observe that, as we are not bound by any existing treaty to defend the Nizam against the Peshwah, we could not engage in a

this as an admitted point, since, if he were a feudatory of the Paishwa, we could not, with any colour of reason or right, negotiate with him for the transfer of his territory. Neither does the information obtained appear to us decisive as to the persons concerned in the intrigues, stated to be carrying on against the Nabob of Cambay: whether the Ministers of the Paishwa, or of the late Mahajee Sindea, the Marhattas and Govind Row Gaykwar in conjunction, or the latter only. The conclusion we have formed however is that although Govind Row is the ostensible agent in these intrigues, they are carried on with the knowledge of the Paishwa's Minister, who looks to a participation in the success of them.

31. It does not appear that the Nawaub of Cambay, who is either ignorant of the intrigues carrying on against him or inactive from inability to defeat them, has any claim from treaty to our interposition or that we have any pretensions to take an active interference for his protection. The question, then, as to a negotiation for the acquisition of the town and territory of Cambay is reducible to the consideration of the advantages on one hand and the risques and inconveniences on the other.

32. The advantages of whatever nature ought to be considerable to induce us, under any circumstances, to accept possession of the port and district of Cambay, and the explanation furnished by Mr. Holford sets them in a clear light. No doubt can, we think, be entertained that the commerce of the Company would be essentially promoted by the possession of Cambay under an equitable administration, whilst important benefits will result from the means afforded us by the possession of checking the piracies and depredations which have so long annoyed the trade on that side of India.

33. In a pecuniary light we do not apprehend that the possession of Cambay could add to our positive strength or resources; and the necessity of defending and supporting the acquisition, in the event of a war with the Maharattas, might prove expensive and embarrassing; nor, on the other hand, does it occur to us that the possession of it by the Maharattas would afford them new means of injuring or molesting us, although it is to be considered, in that event, that we could not reckon upon any assistance from them in suppressing the pirates. The acquisition of it by Govind Row alone, without any participation of the Paishwa, seems rather a desirable object, if the methods used for this purpose by him were less objectionable, as his independency would be promoted by it, which is certainly desirable on general principles.

34. The Paishwa (admitting his concern in the intrigues now carrying on) would consider the acquisition of Cambay in the light of a compromise to disappoint his plans, and, at all events, would view it with jealousy; and, if this were to lay the foundation of a serious disagreement with the Paishwa, we should consider the acquisition ill compensated by the advantages which in other respects it offers. This is the only ostensible objection which occurs to us; and, notwithstanding our incontestable right to treat with the independent proprietor of Cambay for the surrender of it, and that the Paishwa could have no grounds of complaint whatever on this subject, still, if the supposed consequences were probable, we should hesitate to embrace the opportunity which offers.

his deputation at an earlier period will not now be attainable in an equal degree. Late as this measure has been adopted, however, we think it the only resource which remained to the Nizam, and we hope his Minister will see the importance of it. At present he appears sincere in his determination to accommodate the differences between his master and the Paishwah, and with a view to strengthen that determination we have desired the Resident "to express our satisfaction at the measure he has adopted, of deputing Meer Allum, informing him that we consider this selection as a proof of his discernment; that we have long viewed with the greatest concern the subsisting disputes between the two States with whom we are equally connected by friendship and by treaty, but that we trust they will now be speedily and amicably settled."

27. We added that convinced as we are the Minister must ultimately yield to the claims or power of the Court of Poona, the dignity of the Nizam would be better consulted by a timely acquiescence in all reasonable claims than by evasion or protraction, which might only tend to render them more exorbitant, and, at all events, to augment the difficulties of adjustment. At the same time, that our advice may not prove detrimental to the Nizam in restraining him from taking measures to guard against the possible views of the Marhattas beyond an equitable settlement of their avowed claims, we have signified to the Resident that under the uncertainty of the real views and intentions of the Marhatta Government it would be unreasonable to expect the Nizam should supinely wait the event of negotiation without taking precautions to provide against the most unfavourable result, and that such preparations would probably furnish the most effectual means of securing the object of the negotiation.

28. Neither the Nizam or his Minister, however, can have overlooked this obvious consideration; and the communications on their part to the Resident seem principally intended to implicate us by any means in the dispute, either by obtaining our direct interference or by soliciting advice with a view of engaging us in the support of it, or of imputing to us the consequences of following it. We have therefore pointed out to the Resident that our caution should be proportioned to these suppositions that no advantage may be taken of our communications with the Nizam or his Minister; adding that although it would be proper to impress the Nizam with a sense of the danger which apparently threatens him, if he were really insensible of it, the communication should be made in terms that cannot be construed into encouragement, or direction. This is necessary as well to obviate any future misrepresentation of the Nizam or his Minister on the one hand as any misconception of the Poonah Government on the other.

29. On the subject of the negotiation before noticed respecting Cambay,* your Honorable Court will find the whole of the information yet communicated to us in the enclosed copies of our dispatches from the Resident at Poonah, and our detailed instructions in the Governor General's answer of the 28th of July transmitting a letter which we wrote at the same period to the Governor in Council of Bombay.

30. You will observe from these papers that, although the independency of the Nabob of Cambay is rather inferred than expressly asserted, we take

Upper Provinces and the dominions of the Nabob Vizier.

41. The enclosed copy of our correspondence with the Resident at Lucknow is submitted for your information, relative to affairs in the Nabob's country.

42. From the knowledge we had both of the Nabob Vizier and his Ministers, we could not expect that the salutary measures recommended to them by Lord Cornwallis, on his Lordship's departure from this country, would be immediately carried into effect; nor have we any sanguine hope that they will, at any time, be completely put into execution. We have however repeatedly urged their adoption, and we are persuaded of the Resident's desire, and of his using his best endeavours, to see them gradually introduced.

43. The demise of the Nabob Fyzoola Khan has been communicated by the Resident at Lucknow with a reference which required our consideration and decision relative to Nabob's jaghire in Rohileaud.

Consn. 11th & 15th
August.

44. It was unnecessary to enquire whether, as guarantees to the engagement between Fyzoola Khan and the late Sujah ul Dowlah, we had a right to influence the Vizier in the appropriation of this territory, since His Excellency himself expressed a desire to receive our advice for his guidance; nor under this circumstance could there be a doubt of the policy and justice of our interposition to recommend, on the one hand, what may tend to secure the continuance of the family of Fyzoola Khan in the possession of the tract of country which has been so much improved under his management to be now esteemed productive of more than double the amount of its rated revenue when he obtained it, and, on the other, such an acknowledgement and future annual tribute to the Vizier as, from the nature of the tenure and present state of the country, the latter might have an equitable right to demand.

45. From the terms of the treaty concluded by Fyzoola Khan and the Nabob Suza ul Dowlah at Lucknow in October, 1774, no inference can be drawn in favor of the perpetuity of the grant to the latter; still less from the firmaun given in conformity to this treaty by the Vizier, wherein the grant is expressly stated to be a jaghir, a tenure which, by established usage, cannot be understood in its most extended sense to be for more than the life of the jagheerdar, and consequently a non-hereditary office.

46. On a reference to the proceedings of the Government in 1774, 1776, 1778, 1781, 1782 and 1785, it appears that the same opinion has consistently been held of this tenure and that the grant has never been supposed to convey any right of perpetuity.

47. The Vizier, however, desirous for the sake of a pecuniary advantage for the ease and security of the inhabitants, has now proposed to establish the right to resume the possession of the lands therein comprehended in the jaghir then held by the late Fyzoola Khan; and from the considerations of his policy, as well as from those made in the former Council by the British officers, we have no doubt that he will be fully justified in establishing a permanent succession from the son to the late jagheerdar, subject, however, on the confirmation of the Government, to a reasonable annual tribute.

35. The foregoing are the terms in which we have written to the Resident at Poonah, leaving the consequences to his consideration. Nothing can be more evident than that the Paishwa in similar circumstances would seize with avidity the proffered advantages without any restraints of delicacy.

36. We have, at the same time, desired Sir C. Malet's sentiments on the stated objection, if there be time for a further reference; but, if this should be precluded by the necessity of a speedy decision, and he should concur with us in opinion that the friendly connection now subsisting between the Company and the Paishwa would not be seriously affected by our possession of Cambay, we have desired him to forward a letter, enclosed to him for the purpose, to the Government of Bombay authorizing them, under certain considerations, to enter into a negotiation with the Nabob for the cession of Cambay and its dependent territory.

37. These considerations are detailed in the accompanying copy of the letter referred to and are to the following effect. First, that they concur with us in the probability of expected advantages from the possession of Cambay. Secondly, that the object of the negotiation be the complete and absolute transfer of the right and authority possessed by the Nabob of Cambay to the Company; as any cession short of this would deprive us of the means of deriving those advantages from the possession which we expect from it; neither are we authorized to enter into any stipulations for protecting Cambay whilst it belongs to the Nabob. Thirdly, that in adjusting the terms of the negotiations, if it should take place, they consider the expence which the Company must incur from assuming the sovereignty over it, and regulate any stipulation for the maintainance of the Nabob accordingly.

38. You will further observe from our letter to the Governor in Council of Bombay that, in consequence of intelligence given to Sir Charles Malet, stating that Mr. Holford, the Resident at Cambay, had been acquainted with and had encouraged the secret plan carrying on by Govind Row Gykwar for the seizure of the town and district of Cambay, although we consider it highly improbable that this information should be well founded, we have thought it necessary to desire he may be called upon for an explicit declaration whether he has had any and what concern in this transaction.

39. We had written thus far when our Secretary received a letter from the Assistant to the Resident at Poonah, which mentions that Govind Row Gykwar had suspended or relinquished his designs on Cambay, but we expect further information on the subject, and in the meantime we shall send to you enclosed copies of the papers that have been transmitted from Sir Charles Malet's Assistant relative to it.

40. Your Honorable Court have been already advised of the grounds on which we determined to continue the Residency at the Court of Ougeen. The Governor General has since received a letter from Doulut Row expressly signifying his wishes for the continuance of the Residency, and Major Palmer has, in consequence, been instructed to place himself in the situation best calculated for meeting Doulut Row on his return to Hindostan. A copy of his instructions of the annexed date is enclosed.

for himself and immediate dependents within the Company's provinces, in which case we have authorized the Commissioner to afford it.

Burmahs.

54. The enclosed copies of letters from Lieutenant Colonel Erskine and their enclosures contain the latest advices we have received from him respecting the enquiry he was instructed to make into the truth of the alleged crimes of the three fugitives from Aracan—Pulong, Whackposs (*alias* Quaypock) and Quey-ta-gong-Ning.

55. We found in these papers the first clear and specific information we had received of the conduct imputed to the above fugitives, the charges against whom are stated to be, in substance, as follows: "That Pulong, after having sworn allegiance to the King of Ava, rebelled against him, murdering in the first instance treacherously a Burman officer, after which he attacked the Chedoober Chokey and Nakan and the King's fleet, killed a great number of the people, sunk and burned many of the boats and captured others, which he carried to Chittagong. They afterwards attacked and defeated a naval armament sent by the Rajah of Ramree; and the party of Pulong then murdered a merchant, proceeding from Ava to Calcutta; that after this they committed various acts of depredation and cruelty, and then retired into the Company's provinces."

56. Admitting the facts alleged against Pulong and the others to be truly stated, this Government could have no hesitation to surrender them to the justice of their own monarch, as it could not be the interest of any power to protect a murderer and plunderer; and the only hesitation entertained by us has arisen from the possibility either of the innocence of Pulong and the others, or of their having been driven by cruelty and tyranny into resistance and retaliation. It does not appear where Pulong resided; but, connecting what has already been communicated with the information now received, it may be conjectured that he is an inhabitant of what is termed the Broken Island. We have agreed to direct Lieutenant Colonel Erskine to call upon Pulong and the others for an answer to the charges exhibited against them, and for a particular explanation of the time when he first came into the Chittagong Province and his motives for seeking protection under the Company's Government, also to endeavour to ascertain by further enquiries from others the truth of the account given by Pulong, transmitting to us the result of the investigation with his opinion upon it.

57. In the meantime, Lieutenant Colonel Erskine is further directed to reply to a letter written to him by the Rajah of Aracan by acquainting him that, in consequence of his reference to Calcutta, he has received instructions to make enquiry respecting Pulong and the others, but that if the Rajah of Aracan will order the people acquainted with the allegations against Pulong's conduct to attend him, it will contribute to facilitate his enquiry and the termination of the affair. We have also directed that the persons of Pulong, Quaypock, and Quey-ta-gong-Ning shall be secured until the conclusion of the above investigation.

expectations appear to us strictly just, and we also think that policy should induce us to promote a compliance with them to obviate the possible ill consequences of too large an accumulation of property in the hands of a principal family of the Rohillahs, who, from obvious causes, cannot be cordially attached to the Vizier, and, if they should possess the means of independance, might, at some future period, be disposed to throw off their subjection to him.

48. Under these considerations we determined to leave the adjustment of the amount of the *nuzzeranah* and tribute to be settled between the Vizier and the successor of Fyzoolah Khan, instructing the Resident to communicate the principles on which we recommended the adjustment between them.

49. We have also directed him to offer his assistance on this occasion, and authorized him to proceed himself, or to depute his Assistant if necessary, to adjust the terms of agreement with Mahomed Alli Khan, the eldest son and successor of Fyzoola Khan at Rampore, as well for the sake of expediting the conclusion of it, as of preventing the operation of any sinister influence of the Vizier's officers, who might be induced by the opportunity to pursue their own advantage in preference to that of either of the parties concerned.

50. We have further particularly desired that the terms of the agreement may be clear and specific, so as to leave no ground whatever for future doubt or discussion upon it.

51. The only remaining subject we have to notice in the correspondence relative to the Upper Provinces is an application made by Shah Allum for the assistance of the Nabob Vizier to relieve him from his present embarrassments and restore his authority, upon which it is sufficient to say that we have referred the Resident to the instructions his predecessor received from Lord Cornwallis on similar applications, directing these to be the general rule for his guidance in such cases.

Assam.

52. In conformity to the resolutions and instructions already communicated to your Honorable Court, Captain Welsh, with the battalion under his command, marched from Assam on the 1st of last month, and he has since arrived within the Company's district of Rungpoor, where he has been ordered to remain for the protection of that and the adjacent countries from the depredations of *fakeers* and *sonassies*.⁴ The whole extra allowances of detachment have, of course, ceased; and we have instructed the Commissioner of Cooch Behar to withdraw the officers appointed by him for the collection of the export and import duties at the Candahar *Chokey*, the produce of which, according to the agreement made by Captain Welsh with the Rajah of Assam, was to be applied to pay a part of the expence of the Company's troops.

53. The Rajah made repeated representations to us, soliciting the continuance of the detachment for his protection; and from the intelligence since received by the Commissioner of Cooch Behar of the distracted state of the country, we think it not improbable that he may be compelled to seek a refuge

brothers and the principal chiefs and people of the country. The first measure adopted by us was merely cautionary, at the same time that it provided for an active interference in the support of the Vizier's just rights and decisions as sovereign of Rohilcund, if that should be rendered necessary on the arrival of further intelligence; and we accordingly determined that the Commanding Officers of your troops at the two stations of Futtyghur and Cawnpore should be directed by the Resident at Lucknow, who received a discretionary authority for that purpose, to hold the troops under their respective commands in readiness for immediate service; and as Mr. Cherry had signified to us that the Nabob Vizier had received accounts of a small detachment of horse having been sent towards his district of Bareilly on the deposition of Mahomed Ali Khan, we further authorized the Resident to employ the Company's troops in its defence or the defence of any other part of His Excellency's country; and we communicated these orders, and the advices which gave rise to them, to the Commander in Chief, then on his way to the upper stations of the army, as notified to you in our military letter by this packet.

2. We had proceeded thus far on the 26th. We received advices from the Resident at Lucknow in confirmation of those he had before sent to us of Gholam Mahomed Khan's usurpation, and stating what had passed on the subject of it in his conferences with the Vizier and his Ministers, the result of which was a continuation of the reference made to us for advice to determine the measures he should adopt in this emergency. The circumstances rendered it indispensable that our resolutions should not be delayed; and they had been adopted with as much dispatch as was consistent with the due consideration of a subject of so much importance.

3. It was impossible for us in deciding upon the conduct of Gholam Mahomed Khan (without resting on the immorality of the act which he had perpetrated) not to pronounce it to be a deviation from his allegiance to the Nabob Vizier; and it was obvious that, as His Excellency's measures on this occasion would be considered throughout Hindostan as directed by our Government, the discredit of allowing Gholam Mahomed to enjoy the fruits of his violence would infallibly devolve upon us, and would naturally and unavoidably be imputed to our inability to punish it. It is hardly necessary to say that such an opinion in its consequences would soon add insult to disrepute.

4. Supposing therefore an adjustment to be made by the Vizier with Gholam Mahomed, all countenance and interference on our parts must be disavowed; and under such circumstances if an adjustment were practicable, it would soon, or ultimately, lead to disturbances.

5. The discussions between the successor of Fyzoola Khan and the Vizier would be endless, or His Excellency must submit to acknowledge his independence by renouncing all claim to his allegiance.

6. That Gholam Mahomed Khan, in the first instance, will be profuse in his professions of submission is not to be doubted, but no dependence can be placed on a man whose ambition has instigated him to murder and usurpation. The same motive would probably suggest an attempt to strengthen his independence by connections dangerous to the security of the Vizier's dominions, and, in particular, by procuring the assistance of the Sicks,

Miscellanea.

58. In June last a person calling himself Suddasheo Pundit waited upon our Persian Translator with letters said to be from Rajah Chiet Sing, and desired to be received as his *vakeel*. The Translator applied to us for instructions, and we had no hesitation in directing him to dismiss the *vakeel* as a person who could not be admitted in such a character.

59. We transmit for your information a copy of our last advices from Captain Mitchell. The squadron under his command is not yet returned, but as the arrival of His Majesty's ships at Fort St. George removed the necessity of employing it for the protection of the Company's settlements and commercial interests, we sent him instructions on the 14th of last month to return without loss of time to this port.

Fort William,
18th August, 1794.

(*Per Nancy.*)

We have the honor to be &c.,

(Signed) Governor and Council.

35

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 28 AUGUST 1794

Rebellion of Ghulam Muhammad Khan of Rampur—Company to take action to support the Nawab Vazir's authority—Abercromby ordered to direct operations.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. In the 43d and subsequent paragraphs of our advices dated the 18th instant and transmitted by the *Nancy* packet, we informed your Honorable Court of the death of the Nabob Fyzoolah Khan, of the reference which had been made to us concerning the succession to his *jagheer*, and of our decision upon it in favor of its devolving upon his eldest son Mahomed Ali Khan, who had taken charge of the Government with the apparent assent of all his brothers, one excepted, and with the acknowledged obedience of the different chiefs. In conformity with this decision instructions were sent to the Resident; but, before they could reach him, we received a letter from him to acquaint us that Gholaum Mahomed Khan, a younger brother of Mahomed Ali, had seized the Government after having wounded him and confined him in the fort at Rampore; and we were subsequently advised that this was done with the concurrence, or at least without the opposition, of the other

12. An assurance of this nature will probably tend to produce a disunion, which cannot fail to promote the object in view; and we rely upon the Resident's using every effort to promote it, leaving it to his discretion to determine, in concert with the Vizier, whether the effect intended will be best produced by a proclamation or by separate addresses to the members of Fyzoola Khan's family in the first instance.

13. As Ghoolaum Mahomed Khan however has attempted a vindication of his conduct by imputations on his elder brother, although we think that no explanation can justify his conduct, and that nothing should induce the Vizier to confer the succession on him after his usurpation of it without waiting for His Excellency's sanction,¹ we saw no objection to his recommending to the Vizier, previous to publishing the proclamation above noticed, to write a *perwannah* to Ghoolaum Mahomed Khan expressing his disapprobation of the latter's conduct, but at the same time assuring him that, on his immediate personal attendance at Lucnow, no molestation should be offered to him, and that His Excellency will impartially listen to whatever he may be able to urge in his defence.

14. The Resident is accordingly instructed to recommend a letter to this effect to be written in the first instance; but as Ghoolaum Mahomed Khan's refusal to obey the requisition for his attendance, or indications on the part of the Rohillas to throw off their allegiance to the Vizier, may render it necessary to issue a proclamation to the effect before-mentioned, we have transmitted the form of one which may in such case be proposed by the Resident at His Excellency's Court.

15. To these instructions it was only necessary to add that in case the troops should be employed it would be proper to state to the Vizier the urgent occasion for his taking measures to secure their punctual payment, and we have directed the Resident to urge the constant attention of the Ministers also to this object.

16. The Commander in Chief has been advised of the intelligence received from Lucnow with the resolutions of this Government in consequence; and if from the obstinacy or violence of the Rohillahs it should be ultimately necessary to employ the troops of the Company against them, he has been requested to take on himself the direction of their operations. He has also been requested to exercise his discretion in the adoption of such measures as he may judge proper for promoting the object of the Board's resolutions, and if, from any alteration of circumstances, the march of the troops from Cawnpore should appear to him unnecessary, he will of course countermand it.

17. The Resident has been desired to consult the Commander in Chief, as far as possible, on all matters connected with the object of his instructions, and we have no doubt that his ready advice will be given him on every occasion that demands it.

18. We have detailed our opinions and resolutions to your Honorable Court as stated to your Resident at Lucnow, and we trust they will receive your approbation. They have been adopted with a caution commensurate to the importance of their subject, and with the regard indispensably the

7. These arguments, which so forcibly pointed out the propriety and necessity of immediately suppressing the dangerous tendency of Gholam Mahomed's usurpation, we have desired the Resident at Lucknow to urge in the strongest terms of advice to the Nabob Vizier, and, if His Excellency's determination should be, as we conclude it will, in conformity with them, we have directed him to lose no time in taking measures to support it by instructing the Commanding Officer at Cawnpore to march the troops under his command without delay to Futtyghur, where he will receive further orders for his guidance from the Commander in Chief, taking with him the magazine or not as he may judge expedient, and leaving a sufficient number of troops for the protection of the cantonments; and we have directed him to desire the Commanding Officer at the Futtighur station to remain there until he also shall receive the General's orders. The Resident is, at the same time, to call on the Nabob Vizier to assemble such troops as may be of service, particularly horse, and require his attention to any applications in this respect from the Commander in Chief, to whom the Resident will likewise communicate all the information he may be able to obtain on the state and force of the Rohillas, with every other particular that may be useful in directing the necessary military arrangements.

8. These instructions suppose resistance on the part of the Rohillas, and it was prudent to prepare for the worst consequences; but we are far from entertaining a conviction that any serious opposition will be made to the declared determination of the Company and the Nabob.

9. The power of Gholam Mahomed Khan cannot be supposed sufficiently consolidated for effective resistance; and as his brethern and the Rohilla chiefs in general must be sensible of the consequences attending it, many of them will probably be induced to join the standard of the Company and the Nabob Vizier.

10. We have already acquainted your Honorable Court that Golam Mahomed Khan is said to have been acknowledged by his brethern and by the officers of the late Fyzoola Khan; and indeed it is scarcely possible to conceive that he could have attacked the rights and life of his elder brother without the support of a powerful party. Yet, whatever the professions of his brethern may be, we can never suppose that those of them who are entitled to precedence from primogeniture will regard the supercession of their claims without jealousy, or that they will all unite to support their younger brother. On the contrary, we think they will distrust him, and that we may depend upon the assistance and influence of some of them, especially if a declaration were made that the object of the Vizier is not to destroy the Rohillas, but is limited to the punishment of Golam Mahomed Khan and the re-establishment of the allegiance due to His Excellency.

11. Upon these principles we have desired the Resident to signify our recommendation to the Nabob that he should declare his intention of conferring the succession upon such of the sons of the late Fyzoola Khan as may give the strongest proofs of attachment to him, and may in other respects be qualified for it, adding that we have no reason for proposing any alteration in the terms of the succession which have been already suggested, as notified to your Honorable Court in our dispatches of the 18th instant.

George to furnish us with complete copies of the whole of his proceedings relative to the late Zemindar of Vizianagram, together with those of the Board of Revenue and Council at Vizagapatani, which preceded the sequestration of the Zemindary of Vizaramrauze, and the order for his personal attendance at Madras.

3. In answer to this application the Government at Fort St George forwarded to us a part of the correspondence and other papers which had taken place or been written upon this subject, informing us, at the same time, that the remainder, owing to their being very voluminous, could not be forwarded until a more distant period, and that they trusted that, when the whole of the proceedings were submitted to us, we should perceive the extraordinary degree of indulgence which the late Vizaramrauze had experienced under constant failure in his public engagements for some years before the sequestration of his Zemindary took place. That they were strongly

Bengal letter from
England, 1794,
September, 1794,
pages 3, 4 & 5

No. 25 June, 1794,
para 25.
Letter to Bengal,
17th April,
1794.

urged by your Honorable Court to pursue the most decisive measures for obtaining payment of your just demands, and removing the disorders occasioned by the Zemindar's misconduct and incapacity. That their propositions to this effect were fully approved by the late Governor General in Council; and that in point of strictness they proceeded no further than simply to take the management of the country into their own hands

until the public arrears (which had then accumulated to above eight lacks of rupees) were discharged, and provision made against future disappointment. That it was this equitable and moderate arrangement which the Zemindar set himself to oppose with all his influence, and evidently for the purpose of compelling them to a premature restoration of his authority; and that it was not till after he had been warned, though ineffectually, by strong and repeated remonstrances, and until the business of the Zemindary had been brought entirely to a stand by his intrigues, that they had recourse to the expedient of requiring him to leave the district, and fix his residence, for a time, in some other part of the Company's territory. That they trusted it would appear that this requisition contained nothing of such a nature as to warrant the Zemindar even in a passive disobedience, and much less to justify him in opposing it by actual revolt and by the assembly of an armed force consisting (as Lieutenant Colonel Prendergast reported) of six thousand men. That the danger, confusion and alarm which this proceeding created throughout the district, and the effect of its example upon the zemindars in general, were such as to call for the most vigorous measures; and that in the exercise of their discretion upon this emergency they still used every possible precaution to avoid extremities, first, by sending Vizaramrauze a formal letter of expostulation and summons from the President to which no reply was ever made, and secondly, by affording him, to the last moment, an opportunity of returning to his allegiance without any sacrifice either of his honor or interest.

4. They expressed a hope that such would appear to be the principles which they had acted, both with regard to the sequestration and to the order sent to Vizaramrauze, but that, as the several points which influenced their

preservation of the Nabob's authority in an instance where concession could not be made without danger to the existence of it altogether.

19. You will receive enclosed copies of a minute from the Governor General and the several papers recorded by us relative to affairs at Rampore subsequent to those which have been already transmitted by the *Nancy* excepting the instructions to Mr. Cherry which have been communicated in this narrative in the terms in which they were conveyed.

Fort William,
the 28th of August, 1794.

(*Per Nancy.*)

We have the honor to be &c.,

(Signed) Governor and Council.

36

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 30 DECEMBER 1794

Explanation for the action taken against the Raja of Vijayanagaram for his misconduct—The Raja of Ramnad's aggressiveness—Administrative re-organisation of the Northern Circars—Arrival of a cartel ship from Mauritius—Malabar: deficit in the revenues; Danish claims at Calicut not accepted; introduction of indigo and sugarcane considered inexpedient; Europeans to be allowed only under prescribed conditions; aversion of the Bibi of Cannanore to a matrimonial alliance with Tipu's family—Piracy: Malwans and Coolies—Acquisition of Cambay not favoured—Worsening of Poona-Hyderabad relations: Company to be strictly neutral—Tipu's policy and aims: no real danger of a Nizam-Peshwa-Tipu alliance against the Company—Rampur rebellion: defeat of Ghulam Muhammad and the settlement of the Rohilla affairs—Abdul Qadir to be sent to Nepal to develop trade relations—Anarchy in Assam and the difficulties experienced by English merchants in trading with it—Burma: the Burmese fugitives released on bail; proposal to send a deputation to Ava—Arrival of Captain Mitchell's squadron: prize case relating to Babcock.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have the honor of transmitting you copies of our advices from this Department bearing dates the 18th and 28th of August and forwarded by the *Nancy* packet.

Fort St. George and its dependencies.

2. In the 6th paragraph of our letter dated the 18th of August, we acquainted you with our having desired the Governor in Council of Fort St.

customs at the sea ports, which seems to have induced the *Cherokar* to retaliate, as related by Mr. Powney; and it also appears that the Rajah continued his hostile aggressions in defiance of the orders of the Madras Government, although those were immediately obeyed by the *Cherokar*, and all depredations on his part had ceased.

9. They further acquainted us that they had instructed the Board of Revenue to send orders to the Collectors to adjust the dispute in regard to the customs and watercourses conformably to the ancient usage of the country, previously calling upon the parties to declare whether they would agree to abide by the decision; that as the drought still continued in the Ramnaud country they could take no steps at present for compelling the Rajah's obedience; but that, when an opportunity offered, they would exercise coercive means, should existing circumstances render it advisable.

10. They thought it necessary to lay before us extracts of two letters from the Board of Revenue at Madras, the former enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Powney relative to the marriage of the heiress of Shevagunga, and the latter representing further instances of disobedience on the part of the Rajah of Ramnaud; but the Government of Madras expressed a hope that the letter written to him by their President (a copy of which we have the honor to enclose) would induce his attendance at the Collector's *cutcherry* and the payment of his arrears of *peshcush*, although advices had been received from the Collector representing further instances of disobedience.

11. The Governor in Council at Fort St. George advised us in a letter dated the 25th of October that upon deliberate consideration of the defective system upon which the revenues had been administered in the Northern Circars, he had resolved upon a total abolition of the Chiefships at Masulipatam and Vizagapatam, as well as of the Residency at Ganjam, and that he had in consequence determined that these valuable possessions of the Company should be placed under the distinct charge of nine Collectors immediately subject to the superintendence of the Board of Revenue. He observed that this change involved consequences of a very important nature; and he therefore judged it proper to make us acquainted with the measure, transmitting at the same time a copy of a minute delivered on the occasion by the Right Honorable President. A copy of that minute will be sent a number in the packet.

Consn. 14th Novem-
ber.

12. We had the satisfaction of acquainting the Governor in Council that we entirely concurred with His Lordship in the principles upon which the arrangement had been formed, and had no doubt that it would essentially promote energy and dispatch in the administration of the revenues of the Northern Circars.

13. The Nabob of the Carnatic having transmitted to the Governor General a copy of a letter which he addressed to His Majesty on the 18th of October, we shall forward a translation of it a number in the packet.

14. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that the payment of His Highness's *kists* has been completed to the 1st of the present month.

15. We think it proper to inform you that a cartel ship from the Isle of France arrived at Madras on the 19th of September with letters, of which we

proceedings (though perfectly clear in their own judgement) had occasioned voluminous correspondence and minutes, they thought it might be proper to observe that the cause of so much discussion had originated in the line of conduct and opinion adopted by Mr. Chamier, the Chief of Vizagapatam, which had been deemed by the Board of Revenue, as well as by the Governor in Council at Fort St. George, incompatible with the objects of the sequestration, founded on your Honorable Court's orders above referred to, and favorable to the late Zemindar's views of a premature restoration of his authority; that they did not wish by these explanations to anticipate our judgement in any degree upon the merits of their proceedings; but, generally, to shew the grounds upon which they rested, and to bespeak our confidence in the measures they had adopted from motives of public duty until the particular information we had required could be laid before us.

5. The promised documents have since been received, but we have not been able to examine them with that attention and accuracy which we wish to bestow upon them. We can only at present therefore say that we have not hitherto seen anything in them to induce us to adopt an opinion different from that expressed by the Presidency at Fort St. George.

6. In the 7th and 8th paragraphs of our letter by the *Nancy* packet¹, we had the honor to lay before you the intelligence we had received from the Government at Fort St. George relative to the refractory conduct of the Rajah of Ramnaud, who, under the pretext of a claim to the territory of Shevigunga as having belonged to his ancestors, had taken up arms against the *Cherocar* of that district, and had called to his assistance several of the Tinnevely polygars, by whose aid he had invaded and desolated many of the villages in Shevigunga. We then also advised you of our resolutions on this communication, and we now transmit for your further information a detail of the occurrences which have taken place in consequence of our orders on the subject.

7. We received a letter from the Government at Fort St. George acquainting us that Colonel Martinz, who commanded at Ramnaud, had informed them that owing to a severe drought, the country was, at that period, unable to afford subsistence to any troops which they might send thither, and

that in consequence they had been obliged to postpone taking those coercive measures which the Rajah's refractory conduct seemed to require. That in the mean time they had directed a more particular investigation to be made into the subjects of dispute between him and the *Cherokar* of Shevigunga, and especially with a view to ascertain the truth of the fact alleged against the Raja, that he continued hostilities after he had received the Governor's letter positively directing him to desist, and after the *Cherokar*, in compliance with similar orders, had laid down his arms.

8. By a letter of a subsequent date, we were informed that from the narrative of the Collector (a copy of which will be sent a number in the packet) it appeared that the Rajah was the original aggressor in having stopped up the high road to Pallanellore and Tondy, which was frequented by the merchants

from Tinnevely and had compelled them to take a circuitous route, and turn off at Treshooly through the Ramnad country, thereby depriving the Shevigunga *Circar* of the usual

21. Copies of these papers will be sent numbers in the packet. The stipulations in the treaty being provisional and suspended for confirmation, it did not appear that any instructions from us upon the subject were necessary and the Government of Bombay were acquainted accordingly.

22. We shall transmit to you by the present dispatch copies of advices bearing dates the 21st of June and 24th of July, which we received in August and September last from the Resident and Factor at Grain, and a copy of the observations we recorded on the subjects of them on the 29th of the latter month.

Consn. 22d August.
29th September.
ber.

Since that period, further advices, of which we shall enclose copies, have arrived from the Resident and Factor, dated the 1st of November.

23. The Governor in Council at Bombay forwarded to us, with a letter dated the 27th of August, a copy of one he had received on the 23d by a cartel ship called the *Minerva* from the Governor General at the French Islands, which had been sent from thence at the beginning of the same month to the Malabar Coast for an exchange of prisoners. A translation of that letter will be transmitted to you a number in the packet.

Consn. 22d September.
ber.

24. We signified our hope to the Bombay Government that they had so far attended, or would attend, to the application of Monsieur Malartic as to return to the Isle of France the French prisoners at Bombay equal in ranks and numbers to the prisoners who had arrived by the *Minerva*, advising the Government of Madras, if prisoners of such ranks and numbers (on neither of which they had sent us any information, except as far as the number appeared from the letter of Monsieur Malartic and his orders to the Commissary Lieutenant Schohy) were not [available] at Bombay, that the Governor in Council at Fort St. George might supply the deficiency, and return the officers on the Coromandel Coast who were named in the Commissary's orders, if they were still there, by the ship which Monsieur Malartic proposed to send to that Presidency.

25. Your Honourable Court will observe that these instructions were given previous to the advices received from Madras on the subject of the cartel last mentioned.

26. We also expressed our hope that great care had been taken at Bombay to prevent those communications, either on board or on shore, between the officers and crew of the *Minerva* and the inhabitants, which might in their consequences be injurious to the Company and the interests of the nation in the present war, and that no further liberty had been allowed to the officers and people of the ship than was consistent with this necessary principle of vigilant regard to the trust reposed in the British Government. We were the more induced to make the observation as we suspected that the French at the Islands had commissioned the *Minerva* to the Malabar Coast, less with a view to the exchange of prisoners than the obtainment by the means it would afford them of information they could not otherwise acquire, of the state of the British settlements in India and our naval strength, as well as of our real intentions with respect to the French Islands, where the design of an expedition against them appeared by the public intelligence to have been known or at least apprehended.

enclose translations, from General Malartic, Governor General of the French Islands. The Governor in Council of Fort St. George deemed it necessary in a matter of this importance to request the opinion of Commodore Rainier whether under all the circumstances it would be right to comply with the requisition of General Malartic, as contained in his letter of the 23d of August, for delivering up to Captain De Fourg, in exchange for the English prisoners sent from Mauritius, all the French officers, seamen, and soldiers then in their possession; and the Commodore's reply (of which we transmit a copy) determined them against the delivery of any prisoners in exchange for those brought on the cartel, at least till they had received information from us relative to the number of prisoners sent by Commodore Mitchell to the Isle of France.

16. On the receipt of this intelligence, we desired Captain Mitchell to acquaint us with the precise number of prisoners sent by him to the Isle of France on the cartel dispatched from Batavia, and we found from his information that the number of French prisoners who had been liberated by us very considerably exceeded the number sent from the French Islands, or permitted to depart from thence on their paroles.

17. But before this report from Captain Mitchell could reach Madras we received advices from that Presidency that the cartel had sailed, and with them a copy of a letter written by Lord Hobart to Lieutenant General Malartic in reply to those brought by the ship, and a copy of a list of persons permitted to proceed to the Isle of France in exchange for an equal number of officers released or to be released from Mauritius. Copies of this letter and list will be sent numbers in the packet.

18. We are concerned to inform you that one of the boats employed in transporting a part of the Dutch troops from Negapatam to Jaffanapatam, on their return to Ceylon, was stranded near Tope Torey in a violent storm on the 29th of October, and that twenty six persons lost their lives. The remainder, amounting to forty, returned to Negapatam.

19. The Governor in Council at Fort St. George advised us that he had given orders for all the Dutch troops to be embarked on a chartered ship called the *Anna*, which had been sent to Negapatam for the purpose, and was well calculated for the accommodation of the troops, but that on the particular solicitation of Captain Brohier, one of the Dutch officers, the Government consented that his company should embark for Jaffanapatam, the place of their former station, on *donies*.

Bombay and its dependencies.

20. We received from the Governor in Council at Bombay about the middle of last month a copy of a letter addressed to them under date the 24th of July by Mr. Baldwin, the Consul General at Alexandria, enclosing a copy of a commercial treaty which he had concluded with the ruling Beys of Egypt to regulate our intercourse with that country and authorize a commerce from India by the way of Suez.

Consn. 8th Decem-
ber.

Consn. 14th Septem-
ber.

30. Our instructions of the 27th March and subsequent dates had anticipated the receipt of the orders of your Honorable Court contained in your Political Letter to the Bombay Presidency of the 19th February, 1794, respecting our new acquired territories in the province of Malabar. We thought it proper, however, to point out the subjects of these orders to the further notice of the Governor in Council of Bombay, and have the honor to submit a copy of our letter to him, dated the 27th October, for your information.

31. The Government of Bombay will of course furnish your Honorable Court with statements of the *jumma* collections and balances of Malabar for the elapsed year 969 or 1793/4, together with full accounts of the receipts and disbursements on account of that province for the above year, which expired in September last. We avail ourselves of the present dispatch, however, to transmit for your immediate information a copy of a letter from the Supravisor to the Governor in Council of Bombay dated the 18th of October, with copies of the several accounts therein mentioned, containing the latest statements we have received of the collections in Malabar for the past year, together with an estimate for the current year.

32. We have been unable to compare these accounts in detail with the estimate given by the late Commissioners, forming number 141 in the appendix to their general report, from the same designations and divisions of the districts not having been preserved. We have therefore desired to be furnished with a further general *jumma wasul baky*, or account *jumma* collections, and balances of the province for the past year, stating the amount estimated by the Commissioners to be the realizable revenue of each district for the past year, and the *jumma* which was demandable under the settlement finally adjusted, with the particulars of collections and balances included in the accounts already transmitted, accompanied by full explanations of the several variations of *jumma* from the estimate of the Commissioners.

33. On comparison of the total land revenue, customs, and mint receipts, as stated by the Supravisor, with the realizable revenue for 969³ estimated by the Commissioners, there appears a deficiency in the former of above five lacks of rupees, *vizt.*,

Estimated by the Commissioners	...	...	Rs.	19,73,450	0	0
Amount received and receivable stated by Supravisor			„	14,47,657	0	0	
Deficient	„	5,25,793	0	0

34. We observed with concern the actual collections for the past year so much short of the amount estimated by the Commissioners, but, at the same time, felt it incumbent on us to acknowledge that we had no reason to impute the deficiency to any want of zeal and exertion on the part of the Supravisor and Superintendants.

35. The concessions made to the northern Rajahs by the late Supravisor (Mr. Farmer), as communicated in the 16th and following paragraphs of our Political Letter of the 18th of August last, have indeed been a principal cause of the loss of revenue in the Northern Division; and after attentively considering his explanations (recorded on our proceedings of the 22d August) with

27. The Bombay Government informed us, in reply to our letter on this subject, that on all future occasions they would regulate their conduct by the orders contained therein; and they much regretted that, at the commencement of the French war, we had not furnished them with instructions relative to their treatment of cartel ships, that they even understood that between civilized countries the most particular attention was paid to the sacred flag of a cartel, and in an affair of this delicacy they considered it their duty to conform to the liberal custom of nations and to pay proper respect to the Commissary who was entrusted with the exchange of prisoners, that as newspapers are published at all the Presidencies in India, intelligence of every kind is communicated to the whole world, and political affairs are freely discussed and explained; therefore, unless the cartel ship had been subjected to the rigorous restrictions of a quarantine, they know not how it was possible to prevent the French procuring intelligence and even then, the French prisoners who were released would have communicated all the news of India, as they had long resided on their parole at Tannah, had been treated with the utmost hospitality by the gentlemen of that settlement and frequently come over to the Presidency.

That as this ship was dispatched by the Governor General of the Isle of France for the humane purpose of relieving unfortunate people from the misery of confinement and had actually on board 150 Portuguese prisoners besides 11 English prisoners, and as the exchange of prisoners is, at all times, a most desirable object, but more particularly so in this war when the French nation is reduced to so savage a state, they were desirous of doing every thing in their power to facilitate it; and they could scarcely suppose that a ship with 160 prisoners on board was sent principally as a spy, since it is to be considered that the prisoners they brought would give us the very intelligence we were so anxious to obtain respecting the present state of the French Islands, which important intelligence they actually gave, and they communicated the same immediately to this Government and that of Fort St. George.

That all the French prisoners who were at Bombay were delivered up to the Commissary of the cartel ship, and all the French prisoners in the province of Malabar who chose to proceed to the Isle of France were likewise delivered up to the French Commissary, a list of which they only received a few days before and therefore it was not in their power to acquaint us or the Government of Fort St. George of the ranks and numbers of the prisoners exchanged which however was now sent.

A copy of this list will be forwarded in the packet.

28. On the reflections of the Bombay Presidency² we cannot but remark that common sense and self-preservation pointed out the precautions which we suggested; that they were adopted by the Presidency of Fort St. George as was naturally to be expected without any intimation from us; and that they were perfectly consistent with the privileges due to a cartel flag.

29. As to the regret expressed by the Bombay Government that at the commencement of the French war we did not furnish them with instructions relative to the treatment of cartel ships, we have very briefly to state that cartel ships were not then expected or were any instructions concerning them, in the case of their arrival, desired.

40. In the 3d and following paragraphs of our address from the Foreign Department, under date the 31st of May, we advised your Honorable Court of the claim preferred by the Danish Government of Consn. 3d October. Tranquibar to re-establish their factory at Calicut, and of the instructions issued by us in consequence. We have to submit copies of a letter and enclosures addressed by the Supravisor of Malabar to the Governor in Council of Bombay and forwarded to us by the latter.

41. As the information obtained by the Supravisor clearly shews that from the period of the departure of the Danish Resident Mr. Mansel Bernardo the privileges which the Danish Government had possessed at Calicut were entirely abolished, and continued so at the cession of the province to the Company by Tippoo Sultaun at the last peace, we saw no grounds for admitting the claims of the Danish Governor and Council to the re-establishment of their national factory there. We therefore desired the Government of Bombay to reply, in conformity to this opinion, to the letter of the 31st of March from the Governor and Council at Tranquebar, informing the latter at the same time that they are willing to enter into a further discussion of the subject with them, and to attend to any proofs or arguments which they may advance in support of their claims.

42. The Government of Bombay having desired to be informed of the encouragement given in Bengal to the cultivation of indigo and sugarcane with a view to the introduction of these articles into Malabar, Consn. 6th October. we transmitted to them a detailed statement of our proceedings respecting the culture and manufacture of both, accompanied by such papers as were necessary to enable them to avail themselves of our experience in the introduction of these articles into the Company's newly acquired territory, if it should be ultimately judged expedient to encourage the growth of them there.

43. At the same time we advised them that, previous to taking any measures for this purpose, we wished them to consider, after obtaining the local information of the Supravisor and Superintendents of Malabar, whether it might not, for the present at least, be more advantageous to promote the culture of the valuable natural products of that province, and in particular the pepper vine, than to introduce any new articles to the cultivation of which the inhabitants have not been accustomed and the produce of which might not prove equally beneficial, either to the cultivator and landholders or to the Company or others, as an article of commerce.

44. It is evident that if this were the case it would be inexpedient to apply any part of the labour or land of the country to the cultivation of the sugarcane and indigo plant which might be otherwise more advantageously employed in growing the pepper vine, cardumums, cassia, (and perhaps nutmeg) or other natural products. But it is possible that the soil in some districts may be better adopted to the growth of indigo and sugar than other articles; and, in these, if the aggregate number of hands that can be employed in cultivation and manufactures be not otherwise more usefully engaged, it might be highly expedient to introduce either the sugarcane or indigo plant, as from the nature of the soil or other circumstances might appear preferable. We informed the Government of Bombay that we wished to leave this consideration to their

further information on the subject furnished by the present Supravisor and Mr. Duncan, we cannot concur in the justice or policy of the concessions made by him, though we are willing to admit that he was intrusted with a considerable degree of discretion by the Commissioners, and that he exercised it, as well in the Northern as in the Southern Division of the province, to the best of his judgement. For the more particular information of your Honorable Court on this head, we beg leave to refer to our letter to the Government of Bombay dated the 26th August and to the papers referred to therein, recorded on our proceedings of the annexed dates.

Consn. 22d August.
29th Do.

36. The irrecoverable balances in the southern districts are ascribed by the Supravisor to allowances for waste lands, diminution of inhabitants, and a decrease of taxable houses, with other articles detailed in his account particulars, No. 6. We have expressed our reliance on the expectations given by him that these balances will, in future, be much diminished. He also states a considerable loss to have arisen from a reduction in the value of *fanams* at Calicut, allowed by the late Supravisor, on which we have desired further information both as to the grounds of this reduction, and why it should affect the exchange in account of the *rahety* or revenue *hoon* at the established rate of 3 rupees per *hoon*. In the mean time, we have approved a clause proposed by the Supravisor, in the future agreements with the rajahs, that the *fanams* shall be hereafter rated at their established value.

37. We have also approved a form of engagement proposed by the Supravisor for a five years' settlement with the southern rajahs, a copy of which accompanies the letter from him already mentioned, being the agreement with the Cowlparah Nair No. 1.

38. We have, at the same time, desired that the Supravisor may be called upon for his opinion on the following points. First, as to the effect of a declaration on the part of this Government to the *Samoory* and other southern rajahs that, in the event of the due discharge on their parts of the respective obligations and their general good behaviour, the settlement with them shall be renewed at the expiration of the five years for the same or a longer period without any alteration of the amount; and secondly, whether he foresees any inconvenience to the Company in making such a declaration, particularly in giving rise to impediments to future regulations.

39. The counteraction shewn by the northern rajas, particularly by those of Cheral, Cottote and Cartinaad, to the ascertainment of the resources of their respective districts and the establishment of a proper degree of controul within them has obliged us to postpone the immediate conclusion of a permanent settlement with them; but we have instructed the Supravisor to acquaint them that, if their concurrence in giving full effect to the appointment of the Tehseeldars and other officers of Government should lead to a satisfactory ascertainment of the assets during the current year, their assessment will be fixed for a longer period from the commencement of the ensuing year; and the late communications from the Supravisor induce us to hope that he will find no difficulty in obtaining the requisite information for this purpose. We shall hereafter advise you more particularly of the settlements concluded and other arrangements made for the current year.

48. We shall transmit to you by the packet under dispatch copies of a minute laid before us by the Governor General on the 10th of last month, as well as of the papers to which it refers, relative to the piracies which have been long and frequently committed on the Malabar Coast, especially that part of it which lies between Goa and Bombay, by the Malwan Rajah, or as he is also called, the Rajah of Colapore and Pannela⁴; and we request your particular attention to the minute, as it takes a very full view of a subject extremely interesting to the commerce of individuals and in fact to the credit of your Government in India.

49. A copy of the instruction sent to Bombay in conformity with the Governor General's sentiments will also be enclosed. We shall however add the following summary of the most material part of them.

50. It was our decided opinion that full and complete satisfaction should be required of the Rajah for the ship *Admiral Barrington*; and that a demand should instantly be made upon the Rajah to this effect. Supposing a compliance with the requisition, it then remained to determine, after the receipt of the further information which we desired, how far an expedition against the Rajah would be expedient.

51. With respect to the mode in which an expedition should be attempted, after duly weighing the difficulties of attacking the Rajah by land, we expressed our opinion that it should be made by sea, and that, at all events, the co-operation of His Majesty's ships would be requisite. But, previous to any final determination on this point, we desired to have the detailed opinion of the Bombay Government on the eligibility of the two modes.

52. They were therefore desired to consider and state what military force, supposing the expedition to be prosecuted by land, would be requisite, the probable expence of the undertaking, the facility or difficulties attending the execution of it, and the period supposed necessary for its full and successful completion.

53. With respect to a naval attack we called upon them for information whether the ports and harbours where the Rajah's vessels lie are accessible to line of battleships or frigates, and whether it would be possible to destroy the Rajah's shipping in their harbours, and what naval force was deemed adequate for this purpose, adding the best intelligence which they possessed as to the number and strength of the Rajah's vessels, and whether they were defended when in port by any batteries.

54. To destroy the vessels of the Rajah seemed the most effectual mode of punishing his depredations and of preventing the recurrence of them in future; and, if this could be effected without the co-operation of land forces, we should prefer it. On this point also we requested the sentiments of the Governor in Council of Bombay.

55. Having reason to conclude from the terms of an engagement entered into between the Ranny of Colapore and the Company in 1766 that successful expedition had been then undertaken against her country, we referred to the records of that period as probably furnishing the information desired, and we particularly requested the Bombay Government to communicate a detailed account of the expedition then carried on.

judgement, as from their local knowledge they must be best able to decide upon it, and requested only to be made acquainted with their sentiments and those of the Supravisor and Superintendants, which we recommended to them to require in the first instance to assist them in forming an ultimate opinion and decision. They have since communicated to us their opinion, that in the province of Malabar it is for the interest of the Honorable Company as well as of the natives to attend to the cultivation of the natural produce of the country in preference to the introduction of new articles. This opinion is conformable to our own, which we wish to be understood as applying only to the present state of Malabar, or until more accurate knowledge of that province may induce us to alter it.

45. The Supravisor of Malabar having suggested the expediency of grants of land and other encouragements to European adventurers, we further advised the Governor in Council of Bombay that we have found it necessary to restrict Europeans in these provinces from acquiring by purchase, or holding by lease, more land than may be sufficient for the erection of houses or buildings for manufactures, which has been limited by a general rule to fifty *bighas* or about 16½ acres, and for this quantity the assent of the proprietor must be previously notified and the terms of the tenure clearly settled to prevent subsequent disputes. We also transmitted a copy of the regulation we have passed, prohibiting Europeans of any description from holding lands in the provinces without our sanction, together with a copy of a further regulation prohibiting any British subjects not in the service of His Majesty or the Company from residing at a greater distance from Calcutta than ten miles, unless they render themselves amenable to the established courts of justice in civil suits; and we recommended the framing similar regulations (as far as they might be found applicable) for the province of Malabar, in which no British subject whatever should be allowed to settle or reside (the King's and Company's officers, and civil servants only excepted) without submitting himself to these restrictions.

46. The introduction of a new coinage into the Malabar Province has likewise been suggested by the Supravisor; but this being a subject of great and extensive importance we have reserved it for future and particular consideration.

47. You will be advised by the Governor in Council at Bombay of an application which was made by Sadry Behary, the Governor of Mangalore, to the Rance of Cannanore relative to the performance of a promise of marriage between the youngest son of Tippoo and a granddaughter of the Rance, as well as of the answer which the Supravisor of Malabar had advised the Rance, who was averse to the marriage, to give to Sadry Behary. We approved of the step taken by the Supravisor respecting the application made to the Rance on the part of Tippoo, and recommended that, in the event of any representation upon the subject being made by the latter, the Bombay Government should inform him that it was a matter on which they were not authorized to decide, and that the reference should be made to us as being alone competent to reply to it. Our intention in these instructions was to preclude the repetition of a reference, a final decision on which could not be favourable to the expectations of Tippoo Sultaun.

30 DECEMBER 1794

62. It appeared from the result of those enquiries that the Nabob of Cambay pays a fixed annual sum in lieu of *chout* or tribute to the Government of Poona, and that a *choutecca* or receiver of such tribute resides within the territory of Cambay, though without the town, and, consequently, if this territory were transferred to the Company, it must be held as tributary to the Mahratta State.

63. The commercial and financial advantages to be expected from the Company's possession of Cambay were stated by the Resident at Poona, under a strict proviso of good management, and might therefore be considered not sufficiently certain to be relied on. As to the further acquisition of Broach, noticed by the Resident, it could not be expected, as all right to that city and district had been formally relinquished by the Company to the late Mahajee Sindia, from whom it has of course devolved to his successor.

64. The convenience of the possession of Cambay for an eventual attack on the Mahrattas did not appear to us of national consequence, as it probably would be found, in the event of hostilities with that State at any period, more eligible to attack them from a different quarter, and no attack could be made without a considerable military force, and without such force it could not also be maintained.

65. The Resident was of opinion that the possession of Cambay by the Peshwa could not furnish him with any new means of immediate offence to us; and those expected to be derived from our acquisition of it for suppressing the piracies, which have so long annoyed the trade of that side of India, were stated by Sir Charles Malet to be problematical, our ships having already free ingress and egress at this and other ports, so that a proper regulation and employment of the Company's marine force at Bombay might be expected to provide the best, and indeed the only, remedy for the evil stated.

66. Under the several foregoing considerations, and as it was evident that the Peshwa would regard with jealousy and dissatisfaction any measure taken by the Company to possess themselves of the town and territory of Cambay, although there could be no doubt of our right to negotiate with the Nabob of Cambay, and as the advantages to be expected from it were dubious, and at all events remote, we were unwilling to risk any interruption of the friendship and harmony subsisting between the Company and the Mahratta State, and therefore resolved to give up all idea at present of any negotiation on the part of the Company. The Resident at Poona was instructed accordingly, and desired to adopt any fair means that might occur of frustrating the machinations of the Mahrattas for destroying the independency of the present Nabob.

The Nabob Nizam Ally Khan, the Mahrattas and Tippoo Sultaun.

67. The disagreements between the Nabob Nizam Ally Khan and the Mahratta State have been productive of voluminous details from the Residents at the Courts of those powers since the date of our last dispatches and subsequent to Meer Allum's arrival at Poona. Copies of the most material parts of the correspondence will be sent numbers in the packet; and, as it would answer no useful purpose for us to enter upon a very particular recital of it, we shall be satisfied with laying before your Honorable Court a general view of the

56. We concluded with observing that, as the impunity with which the piracies on the Malabar Coast had been suffered seemed calculated to encourage them, we should be happy to avail ourselves of any opportunity for obtaining the co-operation of His Majesty's ships for punishing these depredations, on which we desired the Bombay Government to furnish us with all the intelligence they might possess.

57. Some days after these instructions were sent to Bombay, we received a letter from the Government, transmitting to us a copy of one written to them by Commodore Rainier on the 22d of September, and an extract from your orders of the 19th February, 1794, relative to the conduct of the Malwan Rajah, with a copy of their minutes thereon, and advising us that this was the proper season for using coercive measures to obtain satisfaction of the Rajah. The instructions to Bombay, already mentioned, anticipated the necessity of any further orders on this subject.

58. The Governor in Council at Bombay having advised us towards the end of last year that several representations had been made to them by the merchants of the capture of their vessels by a set of pirates called Coolies, who resided in the Gulph of Cambay, we acquainted them in answer, as advised generally in our dispatches dated the 17th of January, 1794, that, understanding these Coolies to be a set of plunderers unconnected with the Mahratta Government or that of any other native power to which a remonstrance could be made against their piracies, we had no hesitation in authorizing the Government to order out their cruisers with a detachment of troops to destroy the boats of these people in their several ports, recommending only that the force employed upon this service should be sufficiently appointed and adequate to it; so that there might be as little risk as possible of failure in the object of the expedition.

59. The Governor in Council at Bombay consequently determined to send a sufficient force for the above purpose at the proper season, which would be the month of October, and at that period they detached the following corps upon it, as recommended by the Commanding Officer of the troops: half a company of artillery, with 30 lascars and 2 six pounder field pieces, tumbrils &c., complete; one company of European grenadiers; and five companies of native infantry.

60. We have the satisfaction to acquaint you that the expedition succeeded; and, for the details of it we beg leave to refer you to the enclosed copies of letters written on the 20th and 21st of October to the Chief and Council at Surat by Major Little and Captain Blair, the military and marine officers who commanded it.

61. In the 29th and succeeding paragraphs of our letter dated the 18th of August, we laid before your Honorable Court the whole of the intelligence we had then received relative to a negotiation for the purchase of Cambay, and the instructions we had sent to the Resident at Poona for the regulation of his conduct, as well as concerning some inquiries which we desired him to make on certain specific points.

stated, and in the following words: "That war with His Highness is not intended. That the delegate of the *Sircar* (Nizam's) should settle the affairs of the past *aumil*, and that the future *aumil* will be taken from the country and should anybody oppose there is no remedy." By the term *aumil*, we understand the administration of the participated territories.

73. Candour and sincerity have so little share in the politics of the natives of Hindostan that it is difficult from their conduct and declarations to ascertain their real intentions and determinations; yet no other conclusion can be formed from the general behaviour of the Mahrattahs than that they have objects in view which they are fully determined, at all hazards, to accomplish; but either from their usual habits of procrastination or from a suspicion of our determination, or from the unavoidable retardment of their preparation for war, or other causes, some of which have been alluded to in the correspondence of Sir Charles W. Malet, or finally in the expectation that the Nizam will submit to their demands, they have hitherto delayed proceeding to extremities. The Minister of the Nizam on his part seems to consider procrastination as favourable to his cause. If the claims specifically declared in the conference referred to are all that require adjustment, a war may still be avoided, as it can scarcely be supposed that the Nizam will persist in his opposition to them at the hazard of hostilities; but the reference to *kuleeat* indicates claims which are still to be brought forward, and leads to a conclusion unfavourable to the continuance of peace.

74. Our mediation between the two Courts has never been directly proposed, and from the disinclination of the Mahrattahs to the introduction of it, it could not be tendered without the risque of rejection and the discredit attending it. If neutrality were not imposed upon us by legal prescription, ignorant as we are of the true grounds of disagreement between the Peshwah and the Nizam and of the right of their respective claims, we could take no part with either, unless we were to exclude the consideration of justice and equity, and determine to interfere on the principle only of assisting the weakest. But such a policy, supposing it in the first instance successful, would ultimately lead us into ruinous embarrassments; and considering the consequences of it in a pecuniary as well as political view, we might affirm that it would be wiser to incur the additional expence of augmenting our army to such an extent and in such a mode as would preclude the danger of insult or molestation from any or all the powers of Hindostan than involve ourselves in the hazards, difficulty, and expence of a war with the Mahrattas for the support of a Government over which we could never exercise an effective controul, and which, from the vices inherent in it, require abilities of the first magnitude to correct, [and which] must gradually decline into dependance or inexistence. That such an event will take place in a few years is but too probable; nor can we look to one consequence of it, the aggrandizement of powers already formidable, without some degree of alarm.

75. Having adopted a system of neutrality our adherence to it has been strict and every appearance of partiality has been avoided. The jealousy of the Mahrattas has nevertheless been alarmed. This however excites no concern, for, whilst we fairly (?) explain to them such of the proceedings of this Government as might be deemed justifiable causes of suspicion, and

latest intelligence received on this subject (under reference to that correspondence) as stated in a minute recorded by the Governor General.

68. From a review of the circumstances attending the negotiations at Poonah, as detailed in the late communications from the Residents there and at Hyderabad, the most important conclusion is this. That a reconciliation between the two Courts, which was the proposed object of Meer Allum's deputation, seems in no respect advanced by it. On the contrary, as far as we can judge from the general tenor of his negotiations, from the preparations on both sides for war, and from the movements of the troops towards the respective frontiers of the Nizam and Mahrattas, there is great probability that hostilities will soon take place between them.

69. The real causes of dissention between the Peshwah and the Nizam are still enveloped in secrecy; and although some claims of inferior consequence have been brought forward to discussion, the more important points of difference, included in the unexplained term of *kuleeat*^s or generals, have never been declared, or at least have been concealed from our knowledge. The dismissal of Azeem ul Omrah from the councils and confidence of His Highness the Nizam and the subjection of that Prince to the dependence on the Mahratta State, from which of late years only he has been in some degree emancipated, are objects imputed, not without probability, to the Poonah Government. The successful prosecution of them looks to and involves the diminution of the close connection established between the Nizam and the English, and which, as it has gradually acquired strength, has certainly been viewed from the first with a jealous eye by the Mahrattas.

70. That the Peshwah has some claims upon the Nizam derived from treaties and founded in justice seems admitted, but if this object were restricted to the adjustment of these claims only, such a disposition would have been more apparent; the negotiations of Meer Allum would have assumed a different complexion; and the prospect of mutual accommodation would not have been so obscure. The political disagreement between the two Courts is evidently aggravated by a personal antipathy of their respective Ministers to each other.

71. In the conference of the 23d of November between the Peshwah and the Ambassador of the Nizam, Balajee Pundit, the Mahrattah Minister, by the directions of his sovereign, accuses the Nizam of a conduct inimical to the friendship and cordiality established between the two Courts by treaty and covenants, sanctioned by the most solemn oath. He observes that a settlement between them is as distant as on the first day, which he imputes to studied procrastination and evasion. Notwithstanding this, he disavows all intention of hostility against the Nizam, declaring, at the same time, the Peshwah's resolution to take possession of that portion of the Nizam's territories, on which he has had a participated claim of revenue, by force, if opposed, and demanding the adjustment of accounts for the past.

72. In this conference each party imputes to the other the precedence in acts indicating aggression, and justifies his own conduct on the grounds of precaution. A reference is made in the course of it to the *kuleeat* without further explanation than that no advances have been made to any adjustment on them. Yet, after all, the conclusion of Meer Allum is to the purport above

have punished himself, shews a disposition to preserve the harmony happily established between the two Governments. He has not of late troubled us with trifling or vexatious complaints, and the representations which have been received from him are temperate and fair. Yet we should not be inclined to place any reliance upon the pacific intentions of Tippoo, if a favorable opportunity were afforded him of entering into a successful war with us, considering our ability to repel aggression as the only security against it. No surmise has yet been made that under the pretext of a complimentary intercourse with the Peshwah he conceals views inimical to us, or that a negotiation is carrying on between them, the conditions of which are, that he is to attack us whilst the Mahrattas are engaged with the Nizam. One objection would occur to the Mahrattas against such a confederacy, the present exposed state of their northern territories, which might be attacked from Bengal, in consequence of the departure of a proportion of their troops towards Poonah; and Tippoo himself must see that the most arduous task of the war would fall upon him, whilst the Mahrattas would have the easiest and most advantageous part to pursue; yet, improbable as the surmise appears, we state it as a circumstance not to be totally disregarded.

79. The project imputed to Azeem ul Omrah, on the authority of information received by Meer Allum and communicated by him to Sir C. W. Malet, is certainly extraordinary and scarcely credible, the union of the Mahrattas, Tippoo, and himself for the destruction of the British power in India. We are not, however, to forget that a similar confederacy was formerly instigated by the Nizam; and the levity, folly, and insincerity of Azeem ul Omrah may justify the supposition of any absurdity in his conduct.

80. A proposition of this nature would at once undeceive the Mahrattas, if they really entertain any suspicions of our partiality for the Nizam, which it has been his Minister's endeavour to encourage; and the Peshwah and Tippoo are too well acquainted with the character of Azeem ul Omrah to receive such a proposal from him as sincere. The Mahrattas would certainly consider it as a subterfuge to save himself only from their designs upon the Nizam, and Tippoo would probably see it in the same light.

81. These arguments equally shew the improbability of the project imputed to Azeem ul Omrah, and that there is no danger to be apprehended from it, supposing it to have been actually entertained.

82. Some motive must be assigned for his conduct, and, if the arguments stated are just, it is not easy to conjecture what that motive could be. The most probable appears to be the expectation of forcing us from the system of neutrality and moderation which we have adopted to take part with his master; and this supposition derives some countenance from the conversation between Azeem ul Omrah, Moulavy Mahomed Ikram, and Munshy Aleeyallah, noticed by the Resident at Hyderabad.

83. On the other hand, there are many difficulties attending this suspicion and such as we should deem decisive objections to it, if the politics of Azeem ul Omrah were less marked with duplicity. Upon the whole, whether the propositions attributed to Azeem ul Omrah be true or false, we do not consider them as dangerous to the Company's interests; but it is certainly

whilst we act with candour and consistency, there is little apprehension that our conduct or its motives will excite any permanent uneasiness, whilst it would be equally weak and unavailing to watch the progress or terms of the Mahratta jealousy, and step forward with explanations where none could be reasonably required nor prudently offered. The conduct of this Government, whilst we adhere to our professed principles, must ultimately explain itself; and whether the suspicions of the Mahrattas are excited by the arts and emissaries of the Nizam or others, or originate in the constitutional jealousy of their own administration, we deem of little importance.

76. We shall now proceed to notice some circumstances mentioned in the correspondence of our Residents, rather of an uncommon complexion than of real importance, with other matters connected with them.

77. Agents from Tippoo Sultaun have twice arrived at the Mahratta Court, the first commissioned to the Peshwah, the latter to Dowlat Row Sindiah. The ostensible objects of their deputation appear to be merely complimentary or congratulatory. No compliment of this nature, even when the occasion admitted and invited it, has been tendered to the Nizam; and it is observable that Tippoo Sultaun prefers the circuitous channel of communicating through this Government with the Nizam rather than by a direct correspondence with him. This conduct confirms what Captain Doyeton's observation noticed, a contempt of Tippoo Sultaun for the Nizam and a rooted antipathy to him. But we see no reason to surmise that the late communications between the Sultaun and Peshwah are carried on with a view to an union between those princes for the purpose of attacking the Nizam. The Mahrattas, it may be presumed, must be too confident in their own power to require the assistance of so dangerous an ally, whose pretensions, supported by activity, force and ability, would interfere with their own projects. They will not, however, fail to attempt deriving advantage from their intercourse with Tippoo; and if they really suspect us of a serious intention to espouse the cause of the Nizam, they might be induced by it to make advances to a closer connection with Tippoo, and, at all events, will be careful to preserve the appearance of a cordial communication with that prince. It is his policy to wait till events dissolve the confederacy of the three States against him, embracing every opportunity which chance affords to foment any dissensions amongst them. The intelligence collected by the *hircarrah* employed for this purpose in Mysore states various contradictory and vague reports that the English army was advancing against him, that he was collecting troops to attack the English, and, again, that he was to unite with them and the Nizam against the Mahrattas. That he was purchasing horses, offering every encouragement to the merchants to bring them for sale, is a matter of fact which we may readily credit without presuming from it that his views are hostile. He has himself informed us of his resolution to sequester Kurnool; and we are sorry to observe that the imprudence of the Nizam's Minister in opposition to the advice and remonstrances of Marquis Cornwallis has involved him in a predicament with respect to that province from which he cannot retreat without disgrace.

78. The correspondence of Tippoo with this Government is friendly, and his surrender of some of our subjects in the Malabar Province who have committed depredations in his territories and whom by all laws he might

the above month, and of his (the Resident's) having, in consequence of the events that had occurred, delayed informing the Vizier of our recommendations of the 13th August, both as these were given previous to our knowledge of the change of affairs at Rampore, and as His Excellency was still disposed to wait for our sentiments and advice. His second letter enclosed an address from the Nabob Vizier to the Governor General informing him of the death of Fyzullah Khan and the atrocious events which had followed it, with allusions to alleged misconduct on the part of the deceased Nawaub and the general bad character of the Rohillah tribe, and concluding with his reliance on our jealous support of his authority.

89. The instructions communicated to the Resident on the 13th and 28th August having full pointed out the measures proposed by us in consequence of the demise of Fyzoollah Khan and the subsequent conduct of Ghoolam Mahomed Khan, we thought it sufficient to refer the Resident to them for his guidance, desiring only that he would use every endeavour to convince the Nabob Vizier of their tendency to promote his interest, dignity and authority.

1st September,
No. 23, to Resident at Lucknow.

90. In particular, we desired he would study to impress the Nawaub with a full sense of his advantage in adhering to the terms of succession to the *jageer* recommended by us, notwithstanding the change of circumstances which had since taken place, urging, in the strongest terms, the prospect of a speedy adjustment by the general contentment of the Rohillahs and their desertion of Ghoolaum Mahummud Khan, to be expected from a declaration of the Nawaub's intentions in this respect, the more especially if accompanied with the further notification recommended, that the succession would be given to such of the sons of the late Fyzoollah Khan as, to the necessary qualifications, might add the strongest proofs of attachment to his liege and sovereign. To give the greater weight to the declaration we further directed the Resident not to hesitate to join to it the sanction of his official situation or to support it if necessary by his formal assurances.

91. By these means and by the other measures pointed out in our letter of the 28th August, with a due mixture of firmness, conciliation and management, we had little doubt that allegiance and good order might speedily be restored throughout His Excellency's province of Rohilcund, and we desired the Resident would communicate our sentiments to this effect to the Vizier, adding that the readiness shewn by him to be guided by our advice afforded us the fullest assurance that what was suggested from the purest regard to his interests, which are inseparably connected with those of the Company, would be cheerfully adopted and steadily adhered to by him.

92. It was at the same time essential that His Excellency should not be misguided by the interested conduct or machinations of persons about him disposed to abuse his confidence in them; and observing in one of the Resident's late letters the mention of Jow Laul^a, a character almost too contemptible for notice, we could not but recommend to him to urge to the Vizier the impropriety of suffering a person so totally unworthy of confidence to be the channel of communication or intelligence in any matter relating to the important

important to ascertain the truth or falsehood of imputations which, if established, prove that the Nizam's Minister is capable of resorting to the most desperate expedients in violation of good faith and treaties.

84. If we revert to the conduct of this Minister since the conclusion of the war, we shall find that, in the intoxication of success, which his efforts contributed but little to promote, he seems to have entertained the most extravagant ideas of the power of his master and to have adopted wild unconnected schemes of policy, the consequences of which were foretold to him by this Government. Amongst these, his interference in the succession to Kurnoul and his protection of the *Jaghirdar*, and his connection with the late Mahajee in opposition to the interests of the Poonah Minister, were particularly pointed out to him as of dangerous tendency, and the strongest remonstrances were urged against them. We may also recollect that his conduct towards the Berar Rajah, at the period of his assumed projects, whom it was certainly his interest to conciliate, was imprudent and intemperate. He was not, however, unaware of the necessity of our support, which he attempted to gain by repeated propositions for a separate offensive and defensive alliance with us. We need not point out the difficulties in which we should now have been involved if we had acceded to his propositions. We are far from thinking that the death of Sindia, which he has often lamented, was unfortunate for him. On the contrary, we may conclude, from our knowledge of the character of this chieftain, that he only used the Nizam as an instrument to assist his own designs, and that he would have supported him no farther than was necessary for the promotion of his own interests.

85. Azcem ul Omrah has undisguisedly lamented that Mahajee Sindia did not live long enough to force us from that system of moderation and neutrality which we profess and maintain.

86. With respect to our own conduct, we see no reason for a deviation from the principles which we have adopted as best calculated to insure tranquillity and to gain the confidence of the native powers.

Upper Provinces.

87. In our letters of the 18th and 28th August, copies of which will accompany this dispatch, we informed your Honorable Court of the death of Fyzullah Khan, the *Jageerdar* of Rampore and other districts in Rohilcund, granted to him by the Nabob Vizier in pursuance of the treaty concluded at Loldong in October, 1774. We, at the same time, transmitted you a full detail of the circumstances which succeeded this event, and of the measures we had taken in consequence to the date of our latest advices, received the 28th August, from which period we shall now continue the narrative to the present time, begging leave to refer to the papers noticed in the margin for such particulars as may not be sufficiently specified in the following abstract.

88. On the 1st September we received two letters from the Resident at Lucknow, dated the 22d and 23d August, the first advising us of the death of Mahomed Ally Khan, reported to be by an act of suicide, but really, as has since appeared, by the instigation or order of Ghoolaum Mahomed, on the 20th of

Consn. 1st September, No. 21-22, from Resident at Lucknow.

the late Fyzoola Khan, subject to the payment of a moderate *nuzzerana* and a reasonable annual tribute. In whatever degree this principle may have operated, however, it appears to have given way to the subsequent explanations and arguments of the Resident, and to the full exposition of the nature and grounds of our recommendations contained in the Governor General's letters to His Excellency and the Ministers; and on the 19th September the Resident received from him a written declaration of his determination to act according to our advice. In confirmation of this resolution he, at the same time, furnished the Resident with letters to Ghoolaum Mohamud and his brothers, and a proclamation addressed to the principal officers of Fyzoollah Khan, written in pursuance to our recommendation, though not in such explicit terms as we had proposed, containing a conditional offer of personal amnesty to the former, on his repairing, unattended, to Lucnow, and of protection and favor to the two latter, provided they should desert the cause of Ghoolaum Mohummud and return to their duty of obedience to His Excellency's Government.

96. These letters and proclamation, agreeably to the Vizier's request, were immediately forwarded by the Resident in the mode he considered most conducive to effect the objects intended by them, *vizt.*, through his news writer at Rampore, who was confidentially instructed on the subject of them, and directed to give assurance of the Company's unanimity with the Vizier, their sincere desire to prevent the effusion of blood, but that their troops would support the Nawaub in maintaining his authority and carrying his resolutions into immediate effect if coercion should become necessary.

97. At the same time, the Commander in Chief joined the Resident in recommending to the Vizier the utmost firmness and dispatch in the execution of the measures resolved on; and as His Excellency, without any assigned reason, declined making the usual formal requisition for the march of the Company's troops till his return to Lucnow, the Resident lost no time in making application for this purpose to the Commander in Chief, who, convinced of the good consequences that must result from it, immediately ordered the troops at Caunpore to march to Fattighur, and intimated his intention of proceeding thither himself without delay.

98. He, at the same time, requested the Resident to urge the Nabob to assemble as respectable a body of his best cavalry as could be conveniently collected, to take the necessary measures for collecting grain at the proper stations and securing the punctual payment of his own and the Company's troops, to issue such orders as might prevent his troops from plundering the country and ill treating the inhabitants, and, if not already done, to station a respectable force for the protection of Barcilly and his frontier. On these points, the Resident informed us [that] the Nawaub immediately gave the requisite directions, and on his return to Lucnow, after waiting the answer of Ghoolaum Mohummud, which was wholly evasive and unsatisfactory, he resolved to take the field against him in person, and applied for the march of the Company's troops towards Rampore. He also, at the suggestion of

Consn. 10th October,
Nos. 16 to 25,
from Resident
at Lucnow.

Consn. 17th October,
Nos. 17 to 32,
from Resident
at Lucknow.

transactions which might ensue in consequence of the conduct of Ghoolaum Mahomed Khan.

93. With regard to the reference made by the Vizier to the conduct of the late Fyzoollah Khan, without entering into the merits of his behaviour as conformable or contrary to the conditions of his engagements with the Vizier, we could not but discourage the idea of bringing them forward at this moment, as resolutions had been formed not only with every regard to the rights of the Nabob Vizier, but also to policy and humanity; and the measures which had been adopted were calculated to establish the former without violating the latter. The explanations which the Resident had received on these points ought to, and we had no doubt would, have due weight with the Vizier, to whom, we expressed our confidence, it would not be necessary to declare our invincible reluctance to proceed against the Rohillas beyond what might be required for the support of His Excellency's rights and authority, or in other words, to deprive the Rohillas of the possessions which they held by the grant of his father and his subsequent sanction.

94. On the 5th September the communication of our resolutions of the 28th August reached the Commander in Chief, Sir Robert Abercromby, then on his way to the upper stations of the army, about 30 miles below Allahabad. He immediately acquainted us that his sentiments concurred entirely with those of the Board; that he hoped the family of the late Fyzoollah Khan would submit to the lawful authority of the Nabob Vizier, but that, should it be found necessary to employ the Company's troops in support of His Excellency's rights, he would most cheerfully put himself at their head, and use his utmost exertions in carrying the resolutions of Government into effect.

95. The Resident at Lucnow also received the above instructions on the same date; but owing to the Vizier's departure from Lucnow to meet the Commander in Chief and the absence of the Minister, whom he considered the most proper channel of communication, he was unable to inform the Vizier of our sentiments and recommendations till the 8th September, and then only by letter, without the advantage of a personal conference to explain and enforce the justice and policy of the measures advised by us. In consequence a satisfactory answer was not immediately received. The Minister represented His Excellency's desire to attack [attach] the *jageer* of Fyzoollah Khan and to allow pensions to his family, excepting Golaum Mohumad Khan, urging that no advantage could arise from continuing the *jageer* to the sons of Fyzoollah Khan, and that Ghoolaum Mahomed would escape with his wealth, which was reputed to be immense. He at the same time admitted that the seizure of the latter appeared impracticable, and professed the readiness of His Excellency to attend to the advice of the English Government in this and in every other instance. It was perhaps to be expected that the Vizier and his Minister would evince a desire to get entire possession of the improved assets of the Rampore *Jageer*, as well as the treasures left by the late possessor of it, and therefore that they would shew some reluctance to the adoption of the measure recommended, of continuing the *jageer* to one of the sons of

influence of Mohbut Khan might be successfully employed to prevent hostilities, or to effect a disunion amongst the Rohillah chiefs, and to establish a party amongst them in favour of the Nabob Vizier, that no time should be lost in availing ourselves of his influence. If however the sons of Fyzoollah Khan and the Rohillah chiefs should be so infatuated as to oppose the troops of the Company and Nabob Vizier for the support of Ghoolaum Mohammud Khan, they would become implicated in the guilt of his conduct, and would forfeit that claim to protection and security which the proclamation afforded them.

102. The Vizier, in this case, would be authorized to dispose of the possessions of the late Nabob in Rampore and its dependencies as he might think proper, and, fearing he would wish for the entire resumption of the *jaigheer* and to substitute pensions in lieu thereof to such of the Rohillah chiefs as might be deserving of it, without leaving them in the possession of any lands, we informed the Commander in Chief that we should in such case recommend a division of the possessions of the late Fyzoollah Khan into different *jaigheers* amongst the families of Hafiz Rohmut, Doondy Khan and others, from whom the Nabob might require a moderate tribute equal in the whole to what he would have received if Mohomed Ali Khan had succeeded, which would establish his supremacy, introduce a division of interests, and obviate the recurrence of that danger which had now arisen.

103. The Commander in Chief, in pursuance of the above reference, made particular enquiry into the extent and result of the negotiations which had been entered into; and not finding in the Vizier's proclamation any

Consn. 7 November,
No. 21, from
Commander in
Chief dated 23d
October.

specific promise to bestow the *jageer* on one of the sons of Fyzoolla Khan, as recommended in our letter of the 28th August, and acceded to by His Excellency, he wrote to the Resident to intimate to the Nabob the necessity of his authorizing a clear and explicit declaration to

the Rohillahs that in the proclamation issued by him it was his intention to announce the continuance of the *jageer* in the family of Fyzoolla Khan on certain reasonable conditions and their not implicating themselves in the guilt of Ghoolaum Mohammud by uniting with him or remaining indifferent spectators of his usurpation. He, at the same time, added that as he knew our sentiments and earnest desire to avoid hostilities, he could not consent to employ the Company's troops in offensive operations until the above declaration had been made and not acceded to, or until he received further instructions from us. The foregoing application to the Resident, then with the Nabob Vizier on his way from Lucnow to join the army, was dispatched from the camp at Sunka Nulla, four *coss* in advance from Bareilly, on the 23d October; and the Commander in Chief, anxious to avoid hostilities if possible, determined to wait in that position until he should receive the powers applied for from the Nabob, or in the event of his withholding them and not making an explicit declaration of his intentions, until he should receive further instructions from us. The Rohillahs were, at this time, halted about seven *coss* from Rampore, and eleven in front of the English army, within the territory of the *jageer*, where it was understood they were intrenching themselves.

104. On the morning of the 25th October, however, it was found that the

the Resident, wrote to the Rajah of Napaul, who now possesses the Almorah Mountains, which border on Rampore, to prevent his giving an asylum to Ghoolaum Mohummud in the event of his retiring there, and addressed the Seiks and Marhattahs with a view to obviate his obtaining assistance from them.

99. Futtch Mohummud, one of the brothers of Ghoolaum Mohummud, had been deputed by the latter to Lucnow in the hope of obtaining the acquiescence of the Nawab to his usurpation, and the professions made by this man, with those of Ghoolaum Mohummud himself in different letters received from him during the month of October, added to the intelligence from Rampore of the Vizier's letters and proclamation having produced a disunion among the family of Fyzoollah Khan, and the Afghan and Rohilla officers, on whom Ghoolaum Mohummud depended, encouraged a hope that the personal attendance of the latter at Lucnow would have saved the necessity of actual hostilities; but, on the other hand, it appeared that a military force had been collected with every preparation for resistance, and a movement towards the Vizier's frontier indicated an intention to commence offensive measures by an attack of Bareilly. Under these circumstances, at the same time that every endeavour was used by the Resident to induce Ghoolaum Mohummud to repair to Lucnow, where he promised him the Company's protection and the kindness of the Vizier, the Commander in Chief, who arrived at Futtighur on the 3d October, used the utmost dispatch in assembling a sufficient force to support the authority of the Vizier if necessary, and in the first instance to give protection to Bareilly, which place, after waiting the junction of the brigade from Cawnpore, he reached by long marches on the 22d October, and thereby frustrated the design of Ghoolaum Mohummud, who had marched from Rampore with the avowed intention of attacking it. For a detail of the orders issued by the Commander in Chief for the assemblage of troops, and the particulars of his progress to the *Sunka Nulla*, 4 coss N.W. of Bareilly, we beg leave to refer to the letters from him and his Secretary noticed in the margin.

100. Your Honorable Court have already been informed of our having instructed the Resident at Lucnow to consult the Commander in Chief, as far as possible, on all matters connected with the object of our instructions of the 28th August.

101. On the 6th October, having received a petition from Mohbut Khan, son of the late Hafiz Rohmut, undertaking to use his hereditary influence over the Rohillahs to withdraw them from the support of Ghoolaum Mohummud, and recall them to their allegiance to the Vizier, in consideration of his receiving a provision for himself and family, we thought it proper to communicate this offer to the Commander in Chief, who, from his situation, was best enabled to judge how far the measures adopted for the settlement of the succession to Fyzoolla Khan's *jageer* without hostilities were likely to produce the desired effect; and we suggested to him, in the event of their not promising success in this respect, and if he should be of opinion that the

From Secy. to Commander in Chief, 22d September and 5 October.

From Commander in Chief 18 October and 23 October.

Consn. 6 October, No. 16, to Commander in Chief.

of numbers out-flanked us on both wings. On the right, we were more unfortunate. Though our principal strength was in that wing, a powerful body of their best cavalry, when the infantry was closely engaged, made a successful charge through the 1st Brigade, which with the cavalry composed the reserve and the elite of the army. Before the disaster could be remedied, as both lines were covered with smoke, we unfortunately met a severe loss in officers and men, but the Brigade[s] recovering themselves, and part of the 2d Brigade forming to flank the cavalry in the rear, they were prevented taking advantage of their success.

"The victory was now complete, and the enemy retreated on all sides, leaving their cannon on the ground of action."

"As soon as the line could be arranged, I pursued them to the Dujurah Nullah and took possession of their camp which was standing."

106. The accompanying copies of the Commander in Chief's letters of the 26th and 27th October, and of the returns of the killed and wounded and guns taken from the enemy enclosed in the letter, will fully inform your Honorable Court of the particulars of this action, on the very brilliant success of which we offer you our most sincere congratulations, though we cannot but express our serious concern and regret at the loss of Colonel Burrington, Major Bolton, Captains Macleod and Mawbey, Captain Mordaunt of the Artillery, and the other brave officers and men who fell in it.

107. It is with the greatest satisfaction we reflect that every measure consistent with justice, humanity and the dignity of the Vizier's Government was employed to detach the Rohillah chiefs from their adherence to Golaum Mohamed Khan, and that fair and repeated opportunities were afforded to the usurper himself to evince the sincerity of his assertions and protestations by a timely submission without personal degradation. The tenor of his conduct proves his determination to maintain by the most desperate measures the authority which he had acquired by murder and usurpation.

108. To support the rights, authority and dignity of the Vizier, by preventing Ghoolaum Mohummud Khan from enjoying the fruits of his crimes, was the sole motive of our interference, and we were now more than ever

confirmed in our opinion that this object should be prosecuted to its full attainment by continuing to employ the force of our arms against him. We accordingly lost no time in writing to the Commander in Chief in these terms, but, at the same time, wishing to adhere to those principles of humanity which uniformly govern us, we left to his consideration, whenever circumstances should admit, the propriety of recalling the Rohillas to submission and allegiance by an offer of pardon to such as should immediately avail themselves of it, with a declared exclusion of Ghoolaum Mohummud Khan himself, who had forfeited all claim to indulgence, and of his advisers, instigators, and principal supporters, who, we thought, should be excepted from any general promise of pardon. We further suggested the offer of a reward for the apprehension of Ghoolaum Mohummud, if it should appear prudent to the Commander in Chief to make such, and left to his judgment the expediency of availing himself of the influence of two of the

To Commander in Chief, 6 November, recorded 7th November, No. 31.

Rohillah army had advanced beyond their own boundaries, and had taken post on a *nullah* about 4 miles in front of our troops, and had pushed their advanced parties so near as to insult the camp. The Commander in Chief, advancing to reconnoitre their force, met a palanquin with Ghoolaum Mohomed's *moonshy*, who sent him word that he had a message to deliver. The General directed his Persian interpreter to inform the *moonshy* that he could receive no message when Ghoolaum Mohammud's army was advanced into the Vizier's territories, but if the latter would withdraw it into the Rampore district, would attend to whatever he wished to say. He further added an assurance that he would not advance the army before the night of the 26th to give him time to remove his troops, and enter into any negotiation he might be disposed to propose.

105. An answer was received from Ghoolaum Mahomed, stating his readiness to wait on the Commander in Chief, on the deputation of an English gentleman, with an acceptance of his terms, confirmed by a treaty on oath; but instead of withdrawing his troops, it appeared on the evening of the 25th that the whole Rohilla army had crossed the *Dajural Nullah*, and were posted in our front. The General was determined, however, to make no movement towards them, as long as there was the smallest prospect of avoiding hostilities; and during the night, having received assurances from the Resident of the sincerity of the Nawaub Vizier's intentions, which should be communicated in the mode desired, he issued a proclamation, addressed to the chiefs and inhabitants of Rampore, assuring them in the Company's name that the *jaghéer* of Rampore would be bestowed by the Vizier on such of the sons of Fyzoollah Khan as should prove most worthy (excluding Ghoolaum Mohammud as a punishment for his crimes), unless the Rohillas should adhere to and support the latter. The events of the ensuing day, the 26th October, will be best communicated in the following extract from Sir Robert Abercromby's letter to us of that date:—

"Early this morning the movements of the enemy and a commencement of hostilities on the out posts indicated a design of attacking the army; and before 9 o'clock their whole force of at least 25,000 men was formed in our front:

"I drew up the army in a line near the pickets, and remained expecting their approach; but finding that their dispositions were not completed, and that an action was inevitable, I advanced in line to commence it.

"Immediately on our being in motion the enemy opened their guns on our line and advanced to meet me, and the two armies did not halt, notwithstanding a heavy fire of cannon and musquetry along both fronts, until the swords of the Rohillah *sirdars* clashed with the bayonets of the line in every part, where trifling irregularities did not prevent it. More determined and cool bravery in an enemy I never experienced, and I am happy to say that the gallantry of the Honorable Company's troops exceeded my most sanguine expectations.

"On the left, after a severe conflict and after losing most of their leaders, they retreated without any charge from their horse, who from the inequalities

equity and humanity could suggest; and on this principle the following were also resolved upon:—

1. That the districts of Rampore be annexed to the Vizier's dominions in the same manner as the other provinces which compose them.

2. That this being effected, it be recommended to the Vizier to authorize the Resident to make the arrangement of the country in His Excellency's name.

3. That until this arrangement shall have been effected and the Vizier's authority fully re-established and order and peace completely restored, an English officer of approved ability, integrity and moderation remain in the country with a sufficient body of troops.

4. That it be recommended to the Vizier to set aside the amount of the *jaigheer*, as stated in the agreement with Fyzoollah Khan, or so much of it as may be deemed adequate, for the maintenance of such of his sons, widows, daughters or any other persons of his family who may have shewn their attachment to the Vizier, or who have declined or refused to espouse the cause of the usurper. That the propriety of appropriating a part of the sum for the maintenance of the sons of the late Hafiz Rohmut or Doondy Khan, as may, from motives of humanity or attachment to the Vizier, have a title to such consideration, be further recommended to him, and that such of the principal officers and dependents of Fyzoollah Khan who have not supported the cause of the usurper be also included in the above provision.

5. That all the pensions be paid in money. But, at the same time, it may be considered how far it may be safe and politic to gratify any of the persons included in the above propositions with small *jaigheers* in lieu of ready money allowances or as a part of them.

6. That the propriety of destroying all the forts and strongholds in the country of Rampore be considered.

7. That special care be taken to prevent in future the influx of any of the Rohilla tribe from foreign parts to the district of Rampore.

114. The foregoing propositions were communicated to the Resident at Lucnow on the 6th November; but as it was impossible to foresee the situation

To Resident at Lucnow, 6th November, recorded 7th November, No. 32. of affairs at Rampore at the time of their reaching him, we advised him that they had been formed with a view to the probable state of circumstances on which the partial or general, immediate or future, adoption of them must depend; and desired therefore that on this point, as well as on the propositions themselves, he would consult and receive the advice of the Commander in Chief.

115. We now return to the events which succeeded the action with the Rohillahs on the 26th October, for a full detail of which we beg leave to refer to the communications of the Commander in Chief and Resident at Lucknow of the annexed dates.

From Commander in Chief and his Secretary, dated 30th October, recorded 17th November.

Do. 3d November, recorded 17th November.

Do. 9 Do. Do. 24th Do.

brothers of Ghoolaum Mohummud Khan, who had deserted his cause under an assurance of protection and recompence in proportion to the utility of their services.

109. We at the same time took into consideration the future disposal of the district of Rampore, under the change of circumstances since our recommendation to the Nabob Vizier for the confirmation of it to the family of Fyzoolla Khan; and the following was the result of our serious deliberations on this subject.

110. No doubt could be now entertained of the propriety of a deviation from that system of policy which had hitherto been observed with respect to the Rohillas at Rampore. The force collected by Ghoolaum Mohummud Khan far exceeded his supposed means and resources, and verified the suspicions, so long entertained and so often insinuated, that the Rohillas had accumulated a formidable power and were in a situation either to resist or offend. Ghoolaum Mohummud Khan had forfeited all claims to lenity, and his adherents all pretensions to indulgence. To continue the *jaigheer*, as was proposed and recommended to the Vizier, to the sons of Fyzoolla Khan would infallibly lay the foundation of future disturbances, which might call for a renewal of those exertions on the part of this Government which, on the present occasion, had been applied to the punishment of murder and usurpation.

111. The Vizier had not only an undoubted right to resume the *jaigheer*, but self-defence now required that it should be done; and the only regret we felt in recommending the adoption of this measure arose from a consideration of the prejudicial influence of the Vizier's administration over his own dominions, but this consideration was of far less weight than the reasons which operated against it.

112. The share which this Government had taken in directing the councils of the Vizier, and the power which we had almost exclusively exerted in supporting the rights and honor of his Government, and the principles of justice, gave us a title to propose and recommend, in the strongest terms, such measures as we might deem best calculated for his future security and the credit of his administration; and after full and mature consideration of all circumstances respecting the relative situation of the Nabob and the Rohillas, the conduct of Ghoolaum Mohummud Khan and his adherents, we determined to adopt the following propositions, which were submitted by the Governor General:—

1. That the punishment and subjection of Ghoolaum Mohummud Khan, the sole object of our interference, be prosecuted until it be fully accomplished.

2. That it is expedient and indispensable for the Vizier to exercise his right of resuming the *jaigheer* granted to the late Fyzoollah Khan.

3. That such arrangements be made in the future settlement of Rampore as to exclude the danger of future rebellion and resistance on the part of the Rohillas.

113. These propositions we deemed fundamental, but in adopting them we wished also to introduce every modification, consistent with them, which

118. On the 1st November the army marched from Rampore in pursuit of the enemy, and on the 4th took possession of Reher, which was abandoned on their approach. In the meantime the Commander in Chief issued a proclamation offering pardon, protection, and security of personal property to such of the Rohillais as should shew obedience to the Vizier's Government by laying down their arms and returning peaceably to their homes, also exhorting and encouraging them to deliver up Ghoolam Mohummud. A copy of this proclamation fell into the hands of the latter, and he immediately wrote a letter to the General, acknowledging the receipt of it, with excuses for the attack on the English army on the 26th October under the plea of an intention to throw himself and his troops under the protection of the English flag, which was prevented by his people commencing a cannonade contrary to his injunctions. He further represented that by repeated letters, and by deputing his *moonshy* when the two armies were near each other, he had endeavoured to prevent hostilities, and still persisted in his offers of *nuzzerana* and *shookeranna* for the *jageer*, and his request that an English gentleman might be sent to meet him. The General immediately replied that he had received only one letter from him on the day preceding the battle, which, from its contents and the relative situation of the Vizier and Ghoolam Mohummud Khan, he had not thought it proper to answer, but that in his verbal reply through the *moonshy*, Moojie Laul, he had required him to retire within the limits of his late father's *jageer*, for which purpose he gave him [time] till the evening of the succeeding day, but that in the morning he had attacked the English army. The General at the same time advised him to surrender and to trust to the good will of the Company, on whose faith Fyzoollah Khan had relied and lived unmolested for so many years.

119. On the 5th November the army marched to Amarapore, within five miles of a position taken by the enemy, at the mouth of an opening in the hills, where, without cannon, and hemmed in on every side with their families, followers, cattle and effects, the General considered the success of an attack by no means doubtful. But as it must unavoidably have exhibited a scene of carnage and distress, which neither our intentions or his inclination could induce him to authorize without absolute necessity, in the hope that lenient measures might have the desired effect without further effusion of blood, he admitted a *vakeel* deputed by Golaum Mohummud to negotiate for his coming into the English camp; and with assurances of his endeavours to procure a provision for Golaum Mohummud and his followers, provided he should deliver himself up by an appointed time on the ensuing day, promised to depute his Persian interpreter to meet him, and that the Resident at Lucknow should also go a short distance for the same purpose.

120. Under these assurances Ghoolam Mohummud entered the English camp on the morning of the 6th November, accompanied by his younger brother Kurreemoolla Khan, Amar Khan, one of his principal officers, and Syud Khan, his *Bukshy*. He was immediately conducted to the General, and had a conference with him, for the particulars of which we beg leave to refer to the Resident's letter of the 8th November.

116. The army marched to Rampore on the morning of the 30th October and found it evacuated by Ghoolaum Mohummud, who had retired with his troops to Reher,^s a place of strength above fifty miles to the northeast, where he was said to be still in considerable force. He had however left behind him the widow of Saudulla Khan, brother to Fyzoolla Khan, the families of Nizam Ally Khan and Hosein Ally Khan, his brothers by a different mother, who had deserted him and joined the Vizier, and Ahmud Ally Khan, the son of Mohummud Ally Khan, his elder brother whom he deposed and murdered, also the latter's widow. Sir Robert Abercromby thought it proper to write to the widow of Saudoola Khan, assuring her and the others who had remained with her of protection; and recommending to her to use her influence with the Rohillahs who had gone with Ghoolaum Mohummud to detach them from his interest, to which she replied that the son of Mohummud Ally Khan was with her; and verbally intimated through her agent that according as should be decided respecting him she would exert her influence to withdraw the Rohillahs from Ghoolaum Mohummud Khan.

117. This intimation, considered with the general conduct of the Rohillahs since the death of Fyzoolla Khan, appeared to the Commander in Chief and the Resident to prove that they had hitherto acted in pursuance of a concerted plan to render themselves independent of the Vizier; and that having failed in the attempt, they had now left the son of Mohummud Ally Khan with the families of the two sons of Fyzoolla Khan who had joined the Vizier, in the hope that one of these might be allowed to succeed to the *jageer*, in which case Ghoolaum Mohomed might, at a future period, return to Rampore, where his influence and abilities would soon enable him to resume the full power of the *jageerdar*. It at the same time appeared to the Commander in Chief and the Resident that the Rohillas, by their conduct, had forfeited all claim to the offers contained in the Vizier's proclamation; that, whether prevented by Ghoolaum Mohummud or otherwise, none of the family of Fyzoolla Khan had rendered services which could entitle them to these offers; and considering the strong attachment of the tribe (which had induced even many of the Vizier's Rohilla subjects at Bareilly and Feruckabad to join their countrymen in hostility against him), the recent proof of their ambition, their force, and the little probability of dividing them by a division of territory, it would be impolitical and dangerous to continue to them, in any form, a country stated to yield near 30 lacs of rupees per annum, situated so contiguous to hordes of predatory cavalry, Seiks and Goojirs, and at such a distance from the Company's military stations. These considerations with others detailed in the Resident's letter of 31st October determined him and the Commander in Chief not to propose any division of the *jagheer* among the Rohilla families, as suggested in our letter of the 6th of that month, but to wait for our further instructions, in the meantime recommending to the Vizier to appoint a proper person to manage the country, preserve good order, and prevent supplies from it being carried to Ghoolaum Mohummud, which was readily acceded to by His Excellency, and put in execution accordingly.

presume that on the arrival of our resolutions of the 6th November, which however allowed a discretion in the adoption and execution of them, he would have adopted them. To have prescribed a revocation of all that had been done by insisting upon the execution of our resolutions would have exposed the Commander in Chief to degradation, as well as the public faith, pledged through him and the Resident, to imputation. A principal point in our instructions was the punishment of Golaum Mohummud Khan by subjection or expulsion, and this could not be insisted upon after receiving him upon terms. It was certainly rather to be wished in the first instance that he had been compelled to unqualified surrender or flight, and even afterwards that the Rohillahs had been obliged to disperse, or submit to return peaceably to their habitations, rather than they should have been treated with; the Commander in Chief, as he justly observes, would have been authorized in attacking them; but the alteration of circumstances produced by the reception of Golaum Mohummud Khan and the two other *sirdars* naturally suggested the humane forbearance on his part, as the punishment would have been transferred from an usurper and murderer to the bulk of the people who had been misled by him.

126. The foregoing remarks with others on the principles and circumstances of the negotiation with the Rohillas are recorded on our proceedings of the 12th December, on which day, being informed by a letter from the Resident at Luenow of so recent a date as the 29th November that even the preliminaries of the negotiation had not then been settled, and deeming it of the first importance, both for the safety of the Vizier's Government and to prevent a misconstruction of the motives of our forbearance, that the Rohillas should not be permitted to continue longer embodied in arms, we thought it necessary to address the Commander in Chief to desire that if on the receipt of our letter they should not have surrendered or dispersed he would require them to do so within a limited time, under a confirmation of any promises or assurances he might have made to them, and if on the expiration of the period fixed they should still continue embodied in arms, that he would use the means which he possessed to compel their compliance with the requisition, taking such precautions as might appear to him adviseable to effect the accomplishment of this indispensable object with every possible regard to humanity.

127. We are happy that this object had been obtained, without further hostilities, previous to the Commander in Chief's receipt of the above intimation. On the 3d instant, finding there was little probability of a speedy accommodation with the Rohillahs whilst they had any prospect of procuring the liberty of Golaum Mahomed, whose personal influence still induced them to insist on his release as the condition of their acceptance of the terms offered to them, the Commander in Chief resolved to remove him from the camp to Cawnpore; and on the morning of the 4th, advancing nearer to the Rohilla army, issued a final proclamation, imputing their continued opposition to the offers made to them by the Vizier and the Company to the interested views of some of their *sirdars*, and renewing to them, for the last time, with a serious admonition to consider the consequences of their refusal, the favorable terms which had been already tendered to them, the grant of a *jageer* of 10.1 annual produce to Ahmud Ally Khan, grandson and heir to Fyzoolla

121. We must also beg to refer to the letters recorded on the annexed dates for a detail of the negotiations which occupied the Resident and Commander in Chief after the arrival of Ghoolaum Mohummud in the English camp, and the several occurrences which took place during this period, previous to the execution of the preliminary engagement between His Excellency the Vizier and the Rohilla army, under the guarantee of the Company, on the 7th December.

From Commander in Chief, dated 16th November, recorded 28th November.

5th December, recorded 19 December.

8th Do. recorded 19 Do.

10 Do. recorded 19 Do.

From Resident at Lucnow, dated 15 November, recorded 1 December.

Dated 21 November, recorded 5 December.

29 Do. recorded 12 Do.

4 December, recorded 19 Do.

8 Do. recorded Do.

122. It is however necessary to notice the state of affairs at the time when the Commander in Chief and Resident received our resolutions of the 6th November which reached them on the 15th of that month.

123. Golaum Mohomed Khan had been allowed to surrender himself under an assurance of personal security, a promise of a provision, and an expectation of one for his followers. These assurances were personally renewed to him by the Commander in Chief after his arrival in camp on the 6th of November, the precise date of our resolutions. On the 10th a proclamation with the consent of the Nabob Vizier was issued to the Rohillah chiefs declaring that His Excellency would grant them a *jaigheer* for their support, that Ahmud Ali Khan, the son of Mohomed Ali Khan, deceased, being considered the legal heir to Fyzullah Khan, had been selected by His Excellency as the *jaigheer*dar, and that the Company would become the guaranty for the engagements entered into; and a deputation of the Rohillas attached to the family of Fyzullah Khan was invited to attend the settlement of this business. These measures were adopted with the knowledge of Golaum Mohomed and Omar Khan, and the object proposed to be attained by them, exclusively of avoiding the necessity of further hostilities, was to adopt a system which, without subjecting the Rohillas to absolute dependence on the Nabob Vizier, should restrain their power and resources within such limits as would in future prevent a renewal of troubles.

124. On this exposition of circumstances we shall add very short remarks.

125. That the resolutions adopted by the Commander in Chief are different from those of the Board is evident on the first view of them; but we must conclude that the public faith (in his declarations for conferring the *jaigheer* on Ahmud Ali Khan, in his assurance of pardon and personal security to Golaum Mohummud Khan, and in the promise of a provision for him, and attention to the future situation of the Rohillas) had been pledged too far before the receipt of our instructions to admit of retraction. If the state of things in the opinion of the Commander in Chief allowed of alteration, we may

forbearance and every measure that moderation or humanity could suggest were employed to recall the Rohillas to allegiance and to prevent hostilities. Our efforts were unsuccessful, and Golaum Mahomed Khan advanced to attack the British troops at the very moment when he professed submission and when he was assured of lenity.

131. The implication of the Rohillas in the guilt of their leader by uniting so far in his support and attacking the Company's troops, and the considerations suggested by it, naturally pointed out a deviation from the moderate and humane policy which we had uniformly adopted previous to the engagement; and we resolved upon the expediency of resuming the *jagheer* under certain limitations, providing for the support of the family of Fyzullah Khan and other Rohilla chiefs; and the protracted continuance of the Rohillahs in arms called forth our final resolutions for effecting the submission or dispersion of them by force. The engagements entered into by the Commander in Chief previous to the receipt of our resolutions for the resumption of the *jagheer* prevented the full accomplishment of them; and we are happy to observe that the submission of the Rohillas had preceded the receipt of our orders for compelling it. Upon the whole, we have to observe that we have been forced into hostilities by events which were sudden and unexpected, and that humanity and forbearance were employed in vain to prevent them.

132. The negotiation with the Rohillas having been brought to an amicable termination, Golaum Mahomed, whose private property has been continued to him, and for whom a provision is to be made from the Rohilla *jagheer*, expressed a wish that Benares might be allotted for his residence. We have informed the Commander in Chief, whose Secretary communicated this application, that we have no objection to a compliance with the wish expressed by Golaum Mahomed Khan to be allowed to reside with his family at Benares so long as his conduct may be unexceptionable, and have instructed the Resident to give him all necessary and proper assistance for his accommodation; but we at the same time requested [that] the Commander in Chief would explicitly inform Golaum Mahomed that, whilst he enjoys the protection of the Company's Government, himself and attendants must be in every respect amenable to the jurisdiction of their established courts of justice and other local authorities in common with the Company's subjects.

Napaul.

133. The intercourse established between this Government and that of Napaul in consequence of Captain Kirkpatrick's deputation, it was hoped, would have proved before this time highly beneficial by the extension of your commerce and the sale of your manufactures.

134. A commercial treaty exists between the Company and the Napaul Government, and by the terms of it the provinces dependent on both are open to the traders of each. But as there was little probability that our merchants would be induced to avail themselves of it until the advantages and practicability of the commerce were rendered apparent, the Governor General was induced to make enquiry through the Resident at Benares of Abdul Kader Khan, the person employed in negotiating the treaty, with a view

under the Company's guarantee, and the appointment of Nussur Oollah Khan, in compliance with their unanimous desire, to be the manager and guardian during the *jagheer*dar's minority. These measures, and particularly, we conceive, the removal of Ghoolaum Mohummud, had the desired effect. On the 7th instant, a preliminary engagement to the purport of the above mentioned terms, with an agreement to deliver up to the Company, in deposit, all the family treasure of the late Fyzoollah Khan, except 14,000 gold *mohurs* expended by Golaum Mohummud, was executed by Nussur Oollah Khan on the part of the Rohillas and by the Nabob Vizier on his part, with the seal of the Resident on the part of the Company as guarantee to this engagement, a copy of which will be sent for the fuller information of your Honorable Court. We are happy to add that the Rohillas delivered up the treasure of Fyzoolla Khan as stipulated, and that in consequence our army with that of His Excellency the Nabob Vizier commenced their returning march towards Rampore on the 10th instant.

128. We hope to be able to transmit with this letter the particulars of the definitive adjustment made with the Rohillas, and shall be happy to find that the precautions taken by the Resident with the concurrence and advice of the Commander in Chief will fully establish and secure the object they have in view, the restriction of the power of the Rohillas within such limitations as may effectually prevent the recurrence of danger or alarm to the Vizier. We deem it incumbent on us to notice to your Honorable Court, as we have already done to the Commander in Chief, that nothing which has yet come before us has induced an alteration of our sentiments on the principles of our resolutions of the 6th November, which are very strongly supported by the arguments in the Resident's address of the 31st October, but, at the same time, are fully sensible that the measures taken and assurances given previous to the receipt of the above resolutions could not admit of retraction; and supposing a total resumption of the *jagheer* not to be absolutely necessary for the security of our ally the Vizier, the restoration of the son of the murdered Mohummud Ally Khan to the principal share of the *jageer* which would have devolved to his father is consistent with the rules of succession, policy and humanity.

129. We have entered most particularly into a detail of all the occurrences relating to Rampore, since the demise of Fyzullah Khan, that your Honorable Court may have the fullest information for forming your judgments on the principles and conduct which we adopted, and for this purpose we shall conclude with the following very brief recapitulation of our resolutions.

130. That on the death of Fyzoolla Khan, the succession should be conferred upon his eldest son Mahomed Ali Khan under the stipulations of paying moderate *nuzzerannah* and annual *peshcush*. These resolutions were defeated by the violence of Golaum Mahomed in the murder of his elder brother and the usurpation of the *jagheer*. Justice, policy, and the reputation of this Government rendered it impossible for us to guarantee the acts of an usurper and fratricide, and compelled us to interpose the power of the Company for the security of the Nabob Vizier, and to prevent the usurper enjoying the fruits of his crimes. To this object our resolutions were limited, and the succession of the *jagheer* was by them proposed to be conferred, as originally resolved, on some other of the sons of Fyzullah Khan. All the

be expected to arrive in Colonel Erskine's camp, the latest advices give us reason to suppose that the trial, as far as depends on the production of evidence, was still remote. We have therefore directed Colonel Erskine to liberate the fugitives from personal restraint on condition of their giving good security to appear when required.

140. The situation of affairs in the province of Chittagong rendering it apparently necessary to station, at least for a time, a battalion at Ramoo, we have agreed to Colonel Erskine's representation on the subject, reserving our final resolution on this head until we have had an opportunity of consulting the Commander in Chief.

141. We shall also forward to you in the packet translations of a letter from the Minister of Pegu to the Governor General, of a letter from the same person to Mr. George Tyler of this settlement, and a copy of a letter from Captain Sorrel, a person acting as commander of one of Mr. Tyler's ships trading to Pegu, and to whose care a letter had been entrusted by Marquis Cornwallis for the King of Ava.

142. Your Honorable Court will also receive by this dispatch a copy of a minute laid before us by the Governor General on these communications, and suggesting the propriety of sending a deputation to Ava in order to obtain information relative to the produce, manufactures, extent, trade, government and nature of that country, situated as it is so conveniently for trade from all our ports in India.

143. The political advantages to be derived from a constant and amicable intercourse with Pegu were so evident that we did not hesitate to concur in the measure proposed by the Governor General, and we shall, by an early opportunity, communicate to you the steps that we may take to carry this measure into execution.

Bengal squadron under the general command of Captain Mitchell.

144. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that your ships *William Pitt*, *Houghton*, and *Britannia* and the freighted ship *Nonsuch* arrived here in September from the expedition upon which they were employed to the eastward, bringing in with them two ships named the *America* and *Enterprize*.

145. A few days previous to Captain Mitchell's arrival we received from him two letters dated the 13th of April and 31st of August, detailing the transactions and occurrences of the squadron under his command, and we shall have the honor of transmitting copies of them numbers in the packet. We shall also at a further period transmit to you Captain Mitchell's correspondence during the expedition.

146. You will receive by the present dispatch, a copy of a petition laid before us by Messrs. Adam Babcock and Henry Hubbard, who commanded the ships *America* and *Enterprize*, desiring our interference and interposition for their relief. Their case, upon their own statement of it, appears at large in their petition. Previous to the receipt of it, and soon after the arrival of Captain Mitchell, we directed the papers in our possession to the capture and detention of the two ships.

to set on foot the trade which we have so long wished to establish. The information obtained from him in answer to this enquiry has induced us to send Abdul Khader to Napaul in the capacity of a merchant with the articles which he has pointed out, giving him also recommendatory letters to that Government. We doubt not that your Honorable Court will be of opinion with us that the magnitude of the object furnishes a sufficient authority for the expence of the undertaking which, even if it eventually fail, cannot occasion any considerable loss. For fuller information as to the objects of this plan, as well as with regard to the steps which we have taken relative to it, we shall transmit, a number in the packet, a copy of a minute from the Governor Général, in which the whole of the subject is clearly detailed.

Assam.

135. We transmit, numbers in the packet, copies of our latest intelligence from the Commissioner at Cooch Behar relative to the present state of affairs in Assam, from whence it appears that the country is in the greatest confusion, the chief officers of the Government having usurped the powers of the *Surgy Deo*, and expelled that prince from his capital.

136. Several representations having been made to us by the English merchants trading in Assam of the great loss to which they were exposed from being unable to procure payment for the goods and merchandize they had occasionally sold to some of the Rajah's subjects, and of pecuniary loans as well as of the injuries and oppressions they had suffered without having the means of obtaining redress, we deemed it proper that the Rajah should be addressed on the subject, and requested him to pay such attention to the representations the merchants might make to him as they appeared to merit, and afford them such assistance in the recovery of their dues as justice required; but we cannot flatter ourselves during the present disordered state of that country that the representation can have much effect.

137. We have the honor of transmitting to you in the packet a survey of Gauhatty in Assam, made by Ensign Wood of the Engineers, and hope that it will prove a valuable addition to our geographical knowledge of that country.

Burmahs.

138. In the 54th and subsequent paragraphs of our General Letter of the 18th of August, we laid before you a narrative of the transactions to that period relative to certain fugitives from Ava who had taken refuge in the province of Chittagong and had been claimed as criminals by the Burmah Government.

139. We now transmit, numbers in the packet, copies of the charges preferred against Pulong and his associates, together with his answers; but although we had been taught to believe that the evidences to be produced in support of the charges might soon

that we had granted to the officers and private men of Commodore Mitchell's squadron all the Company's right and title to any prizes taken by the vessels which composed it, and that we could not be now interested in the questions that might arise relative to the ships *America* and *Enterprize*. In the event of their condemnation they would become the property of the captors, not of the Company; and should they be liberated, and any damages be given to those who claim them for injuries occasioned by their capture, those damages ought not be borne by the Company but by the captors only.

153. The Advocate General was therefore of opinion that the captors had not any right to involve the Company as interested parties in the litigation that might follow; and that they could not, with any degree of propriety, expect that the Board, in its capacity of the executive government here, would take any part against the American claimants, or interfere with or contest, for the determination of which proper tribunals are established, and which ought to be decided in those tribunals only.

154. We accordingly informed Captain Mitchell that, the law being open to the parties on both sides and the Company in no wise interested in the event, we had resolved to leave the determination of any questions between the captors and the claimants to the proper tribunals without taking any part therein.

155. This resolution we conceive to be conformable to the usual conduct of the executive government in England and other countries on similar occasions; and it was also a consideration with us that, should the transactions relative to the ships in question give rise to any national representations from the States of America, it could not be disadvantageous to our own Court to shew that the power or influence of the Government here was not, in any degree, exerted against the American claimants, but that the captors were, on the contrary, expressly told that they were not to expect any such aid, but were to look to the courts of justice only for a decision of the contest.

156. To the petition from the American claimants above noticed, our reply was directed by the same principles that it was no less our inclination than our duty to interpose the authority vested in us by the laws of our country, and the commission under which we acted, in favor of every subject of a State connected by friendship with Great Britain; and that, with this inclination, which was further strengthened by motives of humanity, but without pretending to give an opinion in any respect on the merits of their case, we could only regret that we did not consider our authority competent to justify an interference in the mode which they proposed; that we believed it was an invariable rule with all nations that questions relating to the detention and capture of vessels should be cognizable, and could be decided only by the courts of law (with competent jurisdiction for that purpose) established in the country of the captors; that to such a court an appeal had been made by the captors of the vessels which they claimed as their property, and no doubt could be entertained that, unless the capture could be legally substantiated, they would receive ample indemnification for any losses or injuries which they might prove they had sustained.

157. With respect to personal ill-treatment which they represented, we

and Dutch to be sent to the Advocate General, with information that the High Court of Justice at Batavia had deemed them to be legal prizes, but that they had not yet been condemned.

147. He was desired to deliver his opinion and report to us, with as little delay as possible, after an attentive consideration of these papers, whether the circumstances made out and ascertained relative to the ships in question were clearly sufficient to warrant the condemnation of both, or either of them, as a just and legal prize, and if both or either of them must be so considered, to advise the orders that should be given in consequence.

148. Some of the papers sent to the Advocate General being in the Dutch language, with which he was not acquainted; and not being able to obtain translations of them immediately, he was only qualified to deliver his opinion on the documents he understood.

149. He acquainted us that, supposing the facts stated in the papers he had read to be fully established by proper evidence, the claim of the captors to the ship *America* would stand on much stronger ground than that to the ship *Enterprise*; it did not appear to him that they could entertain any well-founded expectations of condemning the latter; and, with respect to the former, notwithstanding there was great reason to believe she was really French property, and as such would be a legal prize, yet even to her the claim would rest on strong suspicion rather than on clear and certain proof.

150. But to neither the one or the other of the ships could the captors, in the Advocate General's opinion, make out any title by the papers which he had perused, although they were merely copies, not original documents; and they did not, any of them, appear capable of being duly proved as copies, if the non-production of the originals could be sufficiently accounted for and dispensed with.

151. What other proofs the captors might be able to adduce, should they institute any proceedings in order to have the ships or either of them condemned, it was impossible for the Advocate General to say. They had a right undoubtedly to bring the question before a court of competent jurisdiction as they might be advised; and Mr. Burroughs observed that, for ought that appeared in the case as it was then before him, various means of proving that one or even both of the vessels were lawful prizes might be in the power of the captors, or might be obtained by them. He did not therefore pretend to give any decisive opinion on the subject; but forming his judgement on the several papers he had read, and on them only, his answer to the question stated in our reference was that no circumstances appeared to him to be made out and ascertained relative to the ships in question which were clearly sufficient to warrant the condemnation of either as a just and legal prize.

152. Such being Mr. Burroughs's opinion upon that question, it did not appear necessary for him to advert to that part of our instructions in which he was desired to advise the orders that ought to be given, in case he should consider both or either of the vessels as liable to condemnation. But lest the captors should lay additional evidence before the Governor General in Council, or make further applications on the subject, he thought it his duty to observe

copy of these also in the packet; our decision upon them was expressed in the following terms nearly:—

Having adverted to the objects which influenced this Government to fit out an armed squadron for the protection and security of the Eastern and China trade, and of your possessions to the eastward and on the Island of Sumatra, we were so entirely convinced of the effectual attainment of those ends by the capture of the *Resolu* and *Vengeur*, private ships of war, and by the consequences of a subsequent engagement with the national frigates, *Cybelle* and *Prudente*, which appear to have induced the French Commodore, as well as the commanders of the *Princes Royal* and *Vulcan*, then in company with him, to quit their station and return to the French Islands, that we considered it due to the exertion and zeal of Captain Mitchell and the commanders acting under him to express our satisfaction with their conduct which had been so manifestly conducive to those important objects.

It was with concern, therefore, that we found ourselves called upon, by an appeal from Captains Hudson and Canning, to institute an enquiry into their conduct on the 25th of January last from an expression in one of Captain Mitchell's letter[s] which conveyed to those gentlemen the idea of a reflection on their characters, by imputing to them the cause of not having probably added the *Cybelle* and *Prudente* to the list of the squadron's prizes.

That although the opinion of the committee of inquiry pronounces the act of Captain Hudson in having borne up with the *Houghton* injudicious, and which, as the *Houghton* was the leading ship, was the cause of Captain Canning's having borne up also, and, further, although the committee are of opinion that a general engagement might have been the consequence if the *Houghton* and *Nonsuch* had kept their wind, yet, entertaining a full conviction that the force of the enemy gave them a decided superiority over that of Captain Mitchell and the strongest probability of success if an engagement had taken place, notwithstanding the utmost presumable bravery and exertions of the commanders and crews of the Bengal squadron, we could not concur with Captain Mitchell in the inference he drew that if the *Houghton* and *Nonsuch* had kept their wind the *Cybelle* and *Prudente* would probably have been added to our list of prizes; and we had a satisfaction in declaring that it does not appear to us the conduct of Captain Hudson and Captain Canning can be ascribed to any motives which can affect their professional characters as officers, or that any thing has arisen in the course of the enquiry to do away our sense of the very substantial benefits which the public have derived from the services of the squadron under the command of Captain Mitchell.

166. We accordingly directed the Secretary to communicate these sentiments to Captains Hudson and Canning, as well as to Captain Mitchell.

167. We had communicated our acknowledgements and thanks to Captain Mitchell, immediately after his arrival, for his zeal and good conduct in the execution of the important service committed to his management. We observed that the benefits obtained therefrom by the Company and the trade of India had entirely equalled our expectations, and desired that he would take an early opportunity of expressing in any manner he might think most proper to the officers and men of his ship, in the degrees due to them respectively,

expressed our concern to find that they thought themselves entitled to make complaints; and although this was also a consideration for a court of law, we deemed ourselves bound to require an explanation from Captain Mitchell for an imputed conduct, the reverse of which, even to a professed enemy, was pointedly inculcated in the instructions under which he acted.

158. We informed them also that the captors, immediately after their arrival, were referred by Government to the Supreme Court to substantiate the legality of their captures, and that this Government could not decide upon it.

159. That if the proposition which they had made to the Governor General in Council for undertaking the decision on their case had also been made to us by the captors, motives of humanity, independently of others, would have induced us readily to accede to it with a view to the benefit of all parties in avoiding the expences and delay of legal investigation; but that we possessed no right to interpose our official authority to exact the assent of the captors, nor could make the proposition to them with propriety at any time, and still less at present, as it appeared from the representation of the claimants that they had already declined all decision excepting that of a court of judicature.

160. With respect to the alledged personal ill-treatment, Captain Mitchell sent an answer to their complaint, and we have been entirely satisfied by it that the complaint was without foundation.

161. Captain Mitchell, in an address to us of the 13th April, having stated that if the *Houghton* and *Nonsuch* had fortunately kept their wind the "*Cybele* and *Prudente* would probably have been added to our list of prizes", we thought it proper to call on Captain Mitchell to inform us whether, by this expression, he meant to impute any misconduct to the commanders of the ships in question.

162. Captain Mitchell's answer to this reference was that in detailing the operations of the squadron on the 25th of January he was necessitated to mention the bearing up of the *Houghton* and *Nonsuch*; that he did at that time, and did still, regret that this measure was adopted by Captain Hudson, as by keeping his wind it would have brought on a close action, the event of which, Captain Mitchell was led to imagine from the ardour of the seamen and troops, would have been successful; that he would not pretend to judge of Captain Hudson's motives, but had stated the fact as it occurred.

163. The entire paragraph of Captain Mitchell's letter from which the above extract is quoted was in consequence communicated to Captains Hudson and Canning, and we desired from them a full explanation and statement of what appertained thereto as far as regarded their respective ships.

164. Copies of their answers will be sent numbers in the packet, and we beg leave to inform you that, at their request, we appointed a committee to enquire into their conduct on the above mentioned occasion under the instructions, of which a copy will be sent enclosed.

165. The committee having closed their proceedings we shall transmit a

ration and propriety of her conduct, we authorized him to comply with her request.

176. We enclose numbers in the packet copies of a letter and its enclosure from Mr. Duncan, stating the conduct which he had pursued for the purpose of inducing Sultanut Sing, the Talookdar of Budlapore, to repair to Benares and settle his accounts with Government, although hitherto it had not been attended with the desired effect. The Resident therefore has concerted measures with the *Aumil* for securing Sultanut Sing's person by stratagem, as the mode most likely to be attended with success unaccompanied by bloodshed.

177. Ensign Blunt of the Corps of Engineers having proposed to undertake a survey from Chunar Ghur by the most direct route to Cossimbotta in the Northern Circars, a route hitherto unexplored, the Surveyor General laid before us such suggestions on the subject as its utility and importance seemed to demand; and we propose to transmit a copy of the letter which he addressed to us on the occasion, a number in the packet.

178. We approved the measure as calculated to increase the stock of useful geographical knowledge; and having, upon application to the Berar Rajah through whose territories a part of Ensign Blunt's route would be, received from him the necessary passes, we have directed the Surveyor General to furnish Mr. Blunt, on whose abilities we have full reliance, with the requisite instructions, that he may proceed on the survey in question. As, however, the Nagpore Government might be jealous of his surveying any part of their dominions, he is desired to be particularly circumspect, during his journey through Berar, that the object of his commission may be executed with a caution to prevent suspicion.

179. If on his arrival at Vizagapatam an opportunity should offer for Mr. Blunt's returning to the Presidency by sea, he is to avail himself of it, and if otherwise, he is to return by land through Cuttack.

180. The allowances granted to Lieutenant Blunt are those of a surveyor of lands on the prescribed establishment of *sonaut* rupees⁹ 618 per mensem, including every charge, excepting the extra *batta* he will receive as upon duty out of the provinces.

181. We think it proper to lay before you a copy of a letter dated the 18th of September from Captain Reid, who commanded a ship called the *Hampshire*, liberally offered by him, when intelligence was received at Madras of the war with the French, to carry dispatches to Rear Admiral Cornwallis. We referred to the Government of Fort St. George for the purpose of ascertaining whether the facts which Captain Reid stated corresponded with those upon their records; and, not observing any variation in them, as well as thinking his case peculiarly hard, we beg leave to submit it to your favorable consideration that you may be pleased to authorize such reward to be given to him for his services as you may deem them entitled to.

Fort William,
30th of December, 1794.

We have the honor to be &c.,
Signed Governor and Council.

(Per Rose.)

the sense we entertained of their good conduct and behaviour upon all occasions in the late cruise.

168. A similar letter was written to Captain Barrow, who obtained the command of the *Britannia* on the death of the late Captain Cheap, and to Lieutenant Roper who commanded the brig *Nautilus*, and having now passed our resolutions upon the conduct of Captains Hudson and Canning, we have desired that our satisfaction with it may be expressed to those gentlemen also, and conveyed through them to the officers and crews of their respective ships.

169. Although the lamented death of Captain Cheap has deprived us of the satisfaction of expressing our acknowledgements to him, we think it due to his memory to mention that his zeal and exertions throughout the expedition would have entitled him to most particular approbation and applause, nor whilst we lament his death as a public loss can we refrain adding that his character and talents had acquired the general esteem.

170. The conduct of Lieutenant Roper of the Bombay Marine also has been pointed out to us as highly deserving of applause, and we accordingly recommend him to your favor.

171. Having thought it incumbent on us to point out to you the services of Captain Mitchell and other commanders and officers belonging to the squadron under his command, we think it scarcely necessary to mention that the duty upon which they were ordered necessarily occasioned a disappointment in their own prospects, the loss of much valuable time to them, and a considerable expence; but we repeat, with the greatest satisfaction, that the service was undertaken and executed with zeal and success, and we beg leave to state that we should have been happy to have afforded them a compensation which, however, from considerations of propriety, we submit to your Honorable Court.

172. The officers serving under the commanders of the respective ships (including the *Pigot*) addressed a memorial to us, which, in conformity to our promise, we beg leave to recommend to your favorable attention.

173. We will not deduct from the zeal shewn upon the late service by imputing the exertions of the commanders and officers in any respect to the expectation of receiving a recompence for them, but feeling as we do in the strongest manner the importance of them, and of encouraging similar exertions in future, we cannot but add our hope and request that your Honorable Court will bestow such remuneration upon them as you may deem proper.

174. There is still much to lay before you relative to the detail of the accounts of the commanders of the ships and other matters of a corresponding description concerning the squadron, and we propose to transmit it by the next dispatch. Our decisions upon those accounts have been passed and a general account ordered for your information.

Miscellaneous

175. The Resident at Benares having informed us that an application had been made by the Peshwa's grandmother, who is now, and has been for some time, an inhabitant of that city, for a *purwannah* for twelve *bighas* of ground to be appropriated to religious purposes, and having at the same time added his testimony of the mode-

cated the intelligence we had received relative to the conduct and supposed intentions of Tippoo Sultaun in the event of a rupture between the Nizam and the Paishwa. We now transmit copies of the latest accounts from Mysore, from which it would appear that, whatever line of conduct he may eventually resolve to pursue, he has not yet taken any measures indicating an intention to become a principal in the present disputes between the two Courts.

Consn. 9th January,
No. 3-4.

Bombay.

6. In the 30th paragraph of our letter dated the 30th of December, 1794, we informed you of the measures which had been taken by the Government at Bombay for settling the revenues of the newly acquired territory in the province of Malabar. We have now the pleasure to acquaint you that the

Consn. 9th January,
Nos. 9, 10, 11.

Supravisor has at length been able to effect agreements (copies of which will be sent numbers in the packet) with the Peripnaad and Bepoor Rajahs. The terms of an agreement with the *Samoory* for his talooks have been also adjusted, and the collections entrusted to his officers. The signature to the agreement has only been deferred until the survey of the Ernar District shall have been completed, and some objections which were made respecting that of the district of Paynaad removed. The agreement with the Rajah of Koorminaad having been in the like manner concluded, the settlement with the Rajahs and chiefs now includes three fourths of the province, and we trust will soon be extended to the three northern districts. The Nairs too appear more favorably disposed to the Company's Government than their former conduct gave reason to expect. They have given security for the payment of nearly the whole of the balance of last year's revenues, of the recovery of which there was little expectation; and the Superintendant proposes, as soon as their account shall have been adjusted, to come to a provisional agreement with them for the management of the Pyoormulla Talook for the current year, which he is induced to hope may be productive of advantage.

Consn. 23d. January,
No. 8.

Upper Provinces.

7. In the 132 paragraph of our last dispatch from this Department we had the pleasure of informing you that the negociation with the Rohillaes had been brought to a final conclusion. It affords us much satisfaction to be able to inform you that since the arrival of the newly appointed *jaghierdar* at Rampoor, there has been every appearance of tranquillity being perfectly restored. The principal *sirdars* and inhabitants had been to pay the respects to the chief, and the conduct of his guardian Nusser Ullah Khan is well calculated to conciliate the minds of the Rohillaes.

Consn. 19th January,
Nos. 13 & 23.
16 January.

8. The Commander in Chief judging it proper that an accurate survey of Rohilcund should be taken, and in particular, of the *jaghire* of Ahmed Ally Khan, Lieutenant Mowat², the surveyor in the field, has been selected for that duty, which we trust will prove a valuable addition to the geographical knowledge of the Rohilla country, which has hitherto been very imperfectly surveyed.

Consn. 16th January,
No. 17.

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 4 FEBRUARY 1795

Military preparations in Poona and Hyderabad—Tranquillity restored in Rampur—Babcock's application for detaining Capt. Mitchell refused.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors &c.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We had the honor of addressing you from this Department on the 30th December by the *Rose*, and we now avail ourselves of the departure of the *Essex* and other ships of the 2d Division to transmit a brief account of the occurrences which have taken place since that period.

Fort St. George and its dependencies.

2. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that His Highness the Nabob of Arcot has completed the payment of his *kists* to the 1st Consn. 23d January, of last month.
No. 2.

The Nizam, Mahrattas and Tippoo Sultaun.

3. In the 67th and succeeding paragraphs of our letter by the *Rose*,¹ we detailed at considerable length the rise and progress of the disputes between Nizam Aly Khan and the Peisliwah, and we forward in the packet copies of the correspondence that has since passed on the subject. The Poona Minister Nana Furnaveese entered his tents on the 7th of December, and was followed by the Peishwah on the 14th. These appearances of hostile preparation were answered by similar ones on the part of the Nizam, who transmitted letters of recall to Meer Allum, inserting however in them a proviso that his departure should depend upon the Peishwa's permission. Meer Allum, availing himself of a disinclination expressed by the Peshwa to his return, introduced a proposal for suspending the movement of the forces on either side in order to afford time for another attempt to accommodate matters by negociation. This has been, in some measure, assented to; and the Mahratta forces have been directed to halt, though at a shorter distance from the probable scene of action, should hostilities take place, than had been suggested by Meer Allum. From this delay and from our intelligence that some of the pecuniary claims made by the Peishwa have been settled, it is still possible that hostilities may be avoided, more particularly as some encouragement seems to have been given by the Court of Poona to a proposal made by the Nizam for a personal interview with the Peishwa without the intervention of Azim ul Omrah, whose views and conduct seem to have excited so much jealousy in the Poona Administration.

4. In this critical situation of native politics, it is with much satisfaction Consn. 9th January, we are able to acquaint you that your Residents, both at Nos. 22-32. the Courts of Hyderabad and Poona, continue to receive Consn. 30th July, the most friendly professions towards the Company.
No. 8.

5. In the 77th and subsequent paragraphs of our last letter, we communi-

16. In the 146th and subsequent paragraphs of our last letter, we informed you of a petition laid before us by Messrs. Adam Babcock and Henry Hubbard, who commanded the ships *America* and *Enterprize*, which had been detained by the Dutch and by the squadron under the command of Commodore Mitchell, together with our answer to it and the proceedings that had taken place on the part of their captors.

17. We now transmit in the packet a copy of a letter from Mr. Joy informing us that Messrs. Babcock and Hubbard had applied to the Supreme Court to detain Captain Mitchell in India till the decision of the suit then pending, or to compell him to give security for any costs or damages they might have incurred, should the capture be deemed illegal; but that their application had not been compiled with; and that he, in his capacity of agent for the United States of America, applied to us, on the part of Messrs. Babcock and Hubbard, to detain Captain Mitchell for the purposes specified.

Consn. 9th January,
No. 40.

18. We acquainted him in answer that, if the nature of the case and our public duty admitted of our compliance with his request, we should very readily have granted it; but, as the legality of the capture of the ships *America* and *Enterprize* was then under the investigation of a court of judicature, we did not deem ourselves authorized to interfere, either by detaining the captors or by calling on them to give the security desired and which the court before whom the suit was pending (and from whom we had no doubt Captains Babcock and Hubbard would ultimately obtain every indemnification to which they might appear to be entitled) had refused to require of them.

Fort William,
4th February, 1795.

We have the honor to be &ca.

(Per Essex.)

38

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 6 MARCH 1795

Raja of Ramnad imprisoned—Negotiations with the Malwan Raja regarding piracy—Worsening of the Maratha-Nizam relations—Tipu's proposal to sequester Karnul—Arnott and Bellassis accused of casting guns for Ali Bahadur—The Burmese fugitives surrendered—Babcock wins his case in the Supreme Court, but is unable to recover damages from Capt. Mitchell as he had sailed to Europe: loan advanced by Government as a special case.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors &ca.

Honorable Sirs,

1. You will receive by your ships under dispatch copies of our advices transmitted to you by those of the 2d Division and dated the 4th of last month.

Nepaul.

9. In our last letter (paragraph 134), we had the honor of acquainting you with our intention to dispatch Abdul Kauder Khan, the person employed in negotiating the commercial treaty with the Rajah of Napaul, to that country. He is now preparing to set out on his mission.

10. We transmit numbers in the packet copies of the instructions to Abdul Kauder and of the letter of introduction granted to him to the Rajah of Nepaul.
 Consn. 9th January, Nos. 55-57.

11. It is proper for us to notice with respect to the Rajah that, notwithstanding the most friendly assurances on his part, and the ready acquiescence which he demonstrated in an application to prevent the Rohillahs from receiving succours or refuge in his territories, some circumstances have occurred to give rise to a suspicion that his conduct and professions do not exactly correspond. We shall transmit to you in the packet an extract from our proceedings on the subject in the Judicial Department, and a copy of a letter lately written upon it to the Rajah of Napaul by the Governor General, with a remark that whilst the conduct of the Napaul Government admits of a favorable interpretation we are not disposed to impute duplicity to it founded on some suspicious appearances.

Burmahs.

12. In the 139th paragraph of our letter by the *Rose* we informed you that the charges had been preferred against the fugitives from Arracan, and that they had given in their answers, but that no evidence had, at that period, been produced in support of the accusation. We have to inform you that the evidences have been sent by the Ava Government to Colonel Erskine's camp.
 Consn. 9th January, No. 45.

13. We transmit numbers in the packet copies of a letter from Lieutenant Colonel Erskine, and its enclosure from Lieutenant Brougham, an officer belonging to the detachment at Chittagong, relative to the advantages to be derived from encouraging the Mugs to colonize in your territories, and making roads through the province of Chittagong, as well to forward the first mentioned object as to afford easy and expeditious approaches to the Naaf and the frontier in the event of disturbances similar to those which have lately taken place on the incursion of the Burmahs.
 Consn. 9th January, No. 46-47.

14. We have desired that a copy of these papers may be transmitted by the Board of Revenue to the Collector of Chittagong for his opinion as to the propriety or expediency of the proposed measures relative to the Mugs, and that his answer, with their opinions upon it, may be submitted to our consideration previous to our coming to a decision on the subject.

15. The construction of the road suggested by Lieutenant Brougham will come under consideration when we receive the information which we have required from Chittagong; and upon this as well as on the determination of the question whether a military post should be established on the Chittagong frontier or otherwise, our final resolution must, in a great measure, depend.

The Nizam, Mahrattas and Tippoo Sultaun.

7. Copies of the correspondence with the Residents at Poona and Hyderabad subsequent to the date of our last advices will be sent number in the packet.

8. We are not able to lay before you any more certain or favorable accounts of the negotiations between the Marattas and Nizam Ally Khan than were stated generally in our last dispatches.

9. The Paishwa has taken the field and appears in a great measure to have accomplished the union of the forces which he has drawn from the distant parts of the Mahratta Empire. The Nizam appears to think that the Paishwa's Ministers will not agree to any terms, however reasonable, until they shall be experimentally convinced of his ability to defend his honor and dominions against their most vigorous efforts. Hostilities cannot be long avoided in the situation of the two powers, unless an immediate pacification should take place between them, which certainly does not at present appear probable.

10. There is one point connected with this subject which we think it proper to notice. The Residents at the Courts of Poonah and Hyderabad were respectively instructed not to accompany the Peshwah or the Nizam beyond the bounds of their territories unless with the consent of the party into whose dominions the other might advance. Permission for this purpose was readily granted by the Nizam to Sir C. W. Malet; but the Poonah Minister's reply to an application of the Resident for a similar permission in favor of Captain Kirkpatrick was expressed in these terms: "You are Resident at my *Durbar* for *wukalut* (representation). Were Captain Kirkpatrick *nawaub* [*naib*] on your part (meaning in deputation from me) there was no objection. And, as to your being with me, there is no necessity for the Nizam's permission, because, allowing the *nawaub* to be your friend, yet his friendship is not separate; in the treaties (Peshwa's with the Company) the Nizam is included in my *Sirkar*. Therefore the power of prescribing separately appertains not to him."

11. It was observed by Sir Charles Malet that the Court of Poonah in this communication assumed the dependence of the Nizam upon the Paishwa in the intercourse of the former with us upon the strength of the 10th article of the Treaty of Salbye¹, with respect to which we had hitherto been so cautious to avoid giving an opening to the Mahratta State as actually to have waved all claim on the same clause in regard to Tippoo at the commencement of the late war and on other occasions for the reasons stated in his letter.

12. With respect to the pretensions of the Paishwa as conveyed by the answer of the Court of Poonah, they cannot be allowed to have any influence in our conduct towards Nizam Ally Khan, or our connection with him as an independent prince, nor are they warranted by the Treaty of Salbye. But, without entering into any discussion of the question, we had no hesitation to resolve that the system of neutrality upon which we have determined should be maintained, not only in effect but in appearance; and, as the Paishwa has declined to permit the Resident at Hyderabad to accompany His Highness into the Mahratta territories, we thought proper to direct your Resident at the Court of Poonah to decline accompanying the Paishwa beyond the limits of the Nizam's dominions, unless the latter should expressly desire it.

Fort Saint George and its dependencies.

2. In the 6th and subsequent paragraphs of our letter of the 30th of December, we laid before you a continuation of a detail sent to you in preceding dispatches relative to the Rajah of Ramnaud. We have the honor to transmit, a number in this packet, further advices which we received towards the end of last month from the Government of Madras on the same subject, explanatory of the reasons which had induced them to adopt a resolution for the Rajah's removal, and including a copy of their instructions to the Collector, stating the manner in which the object was to be accomplished.

3. The Governor in Council was not quite determined in respect to the person on whom the succession should devolve; but His Lordship observed to us that the opinion given by the Supreme Government in the month of September 1792 in the case of the *Shevagerry Pollam* would, of consequence, influence his decision when the point should come under consideration.

Consn. 20th February.

4. We concurred in the expediency and necessity of the removal of the Rajah of Ramnad, and approved of the intention to allow his possessions to devolve to his legal heir in the spirit of the former instructions of this Government. We have been very lately advised by the Governor in Council that the person of the Rajah of Ramnaud has been apprehended without any resistance on his part, and that he is now a prisoner in the place.

Bombay and its dependencies.

5. The Government of Bombay have transmitted to us copies of letters received at that Presidency from the Rajah of Panilla and his agents, Nagojee Row Ghautkey and Ballajee Ram, the objects of whose mission to Bombay was to prevail upon that Government to depute to him a gentleman of rank and character, that the existing differences upon account of the depredations committed by the Malwan fleet might be removed, and he might receive the Company's protection against certain encroachments of the Paishwa, whom he called his servant. The agents delivered in at the same time some heads of a treaty of alliance with this Rajah, and endeavoured to remove in some degree from him the blame he had incurred for the depredations committed by the Malwan fleet by including within this description the ships of other pirates.

Consn. 20th February.

The Government of Bombay observed that the Rajah in all his negotiations with them had acted with so much perfidy that they could not place any confidence in his professions. Frequent experience had proved the truth of this opinion, and we deemed it necessary only to desire the Government of Bombay to acquaint the Rajah that no new engagement could be entered into with him while the conditions of the one which he contracted in the year 1792 remained unfulfilled.

6. We observed at the same time that we waited the receipt of the information which we requested some time ago from the Government of Bombay, previous to our adopting a final determination upon the measures to be taken with the view of obtaining redress for the piracies committed by the Rajah and the effectual prevention of them in future.

in the packet, including the explanations received from Mr. Arnott and Mr. Bellassis upon the representations made to the Resident relative to them. There was every reason to believe from Mr. Bellassis's assurances, and from the circumstances delivered in evidence during the enquiry, that he was employed by Mr. Arnott and not engaged as a principal in the manufacture; that he did not know that the arms were intended for any foreign power; also that he desisted from making them on receiving the Resident's requisition to that effect; nor did it appear, as far as the enquiry had then gone, that any of the guns or any part of the military apparatus had yet been sent across the Jumna to Ally Behauder or any other chief; but we very soon received advices from the Resident at Lucnow that Mr. Arnott privately left that place on the morning of the 22d of February, and was reported to have gone to Ally Behadre, taking with him six pieces of cannon and nine hundred men who were assembled at Manicapore on the banks of the Ganges. This information was highly probable on the grounds of a declaration from Mr. Arnott himself, which will appear in a letter from him to the Resident accompanying the papers on this subject. It had been confirmed as far as related to his departure, and little doubt was to be entertained of the remainder of it.

18. Mr. Arnott having now by his conduct totally forfeited any claim to the Company's protection, we have directed that, on his appearance again within the territories of the Nawaub Vizier, he may be apprehended and sent to the Presidency; and, in regard to Mr. Bellassis, we have desired that he may be called upon to enter into a security engagement jointly with two other persons of responsibility to repair to Calcutta whenever required, after due notice given to him for that purpose.

Burmahs.

19. In the 12th paragraph of our letter by the *Essex*², we informed your Honorable Court that the evidences had been sent by the Ava Government in order to substantiate the charges preferred against the fugitives who had fled from Arracan and taken refuge in the province of Chittagong.

20. The examination has since been concluded, and we transmit as a
 Consn. 6th Febru- number in the packet a copy of the proceedings on it,
 ary, No. 21. on the grounds of which we deemed it proper to order
 the surrender of the parties accused as presumptive delin-
 quents against the Burma State.

21. The orders to this effect were dispatched on the 6th February; but previous to the receipt of them by Colonel Erskine, the Rajah of Aracan had remonstrated against the detention of the fugitives, under an intimation of resorting to hostile measures to procure the surrender of them. The execution of our orders will convince the Rajah of Aracan that the justice of this Government has already conceded what he could not have obtained by hostilities.

22. In the 14th and 15th paragraphs of our letter by the *Essex*, we informed you that proposals had been laid before us by Lieutenant Brougham, an officer belonging to the detachment at Chittagong, relative to the advantages to be derived from encouraging the Mugs to colonize in your territories; and that we had, previous to our forming any determination on the subject,

29. Considering all the circumstances of Mr. Babcock's case, the impossibility of his immediately availing himself of the benefit of the decision of the Supreme Court and the ruinous consequences to his affairs, we conceived that, in adopting the sentiments of the Advocate General for granting some relief and assistance to Mr. Babcock, we were not only justified in point of equity and humanity, but consulted equally the credit and reputation of the Company and British nation. We resolved, therefore, that the sum of thirty five thousand *sicca* rupees⁴ should be advanced to Mr. Babcock to enable him to pursue his voyage to Europe, under the express provision that the advance of this sum should not be construed or taken as an acquiescence in the justice of his claim on the Company or an acknowledgement that they were in any degree liable to him; and that, if they should be held liable in England, the sum advanced here should be deducted from the amount payable by the Company, or, if he should not be entitled to hold them liable to him, that he would refund the sum advanced to him or allow it in part discharge of the damages to be paid by Captain Mitchell and the other captors, and execute in England such good and sufficient instruments as the Counsel of the Company should advise for the purpose of enabling them to recover the amount so advanced from Captain Mitchell and the other captors who might by law be held liable to pay the same. We also determined, at the same time, that the petition of Mr. Babcock should be referred to your Honorable Court, and that it should be stipulated with him that he should not, by the acceptance of the sum advanced to him here to enable him to pursue his voyage, be considered as in any degree relinquishing or prejudicing his claim on the Company.

30. The money has been paid to Mr. Babcock subsequent to the receipt of the conditional acknowledgement (as prescribed), of which we think it necessary to enclose an attested copy.

Fort William,
6th of March, 1795.

We have the honor to be &c.

(*Per Pitt.*)

39

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 21 MARCH 1795

Opening of the Kharda campaign—No hopes of reform in Oudh—Oudh frontier closed to prevent the escape of Arnott.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors &c.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have the honor of transmitting to you by the *Dart* packet a detail of such events as have occurred since our letter dated the 6th instant and forwarded by your ships *Pitt*, *Thetis*, and *Melville Castle*.

directed copies of those papers to be transmitted through the Revenue Board to the Collector of Chittagong for his opinion as to the propriety or expediency of the proposed measures, and that his answer, with the opinions of the Board of Revenue upon it, might be laid before us.

23. We now transmit as numbers in the packet copies of the Collector's answer and of the opinion of the Board of Revenue upon it, and we have only to add that, in consequence of this additional information, we have declined adopting the propositions contained in Lieutenant Brougham's letter.

Consn. 27th Feb-
ruary.

Miscellanea.

24. We communicated to you, in the 16th and subsequent paragraphs of our address of the 4th of February^a, the proceedings which had taken place here relative to the detention of two ships carrying American colours by the squadron of your ships under the general command of Captain Mitchell and those belonging to the Dutch Government. The Supreme Court of Judicature, in their admiralty jurisdiction, decided that a very small part of the cargo of one ship was a legal prize, that both ships should be liberated, the captors paying all costs and damages arising from the detention of one of them.

25. The principal owner of both ships, as well as the commander of one of them, presented to us a petition, of which we enclose a copy, in which, after relating the substance of his case as already laid before you, and stating the very wretched situation (we use his own term in this expression) to which he was reduced, he solicited from our Government that relief which he could not hope to realize from any other quarter. The reasons stated in his letter, of which we have the honor to enclose a copy, appeared to have a claim, upon national principles at least if not upon those of ordinary justice only, to our attention; and the subject of it was referred to the Advocate General, whose answer to Sir John Shore will be laid before you with this dispatch.

26. We could not from the first but consider the circumstances of Mr. Babcock's case as peculiarly unfortunate; but as an appeal had been made by the captors of his ships, including officers in the employ of both the English and Dutch Companies, to a competent tribunal, we could not, in the capacity of the executive administration of this country, undertake the responsibility of deciding upon claims which by the laws of Great Britain were properly cognizable by the admiralty jurisdiction.

27. The judgement of the Supreme Court of Judicature had now been pronounced. Both Mr. Babcock's ships had been liberated and damages had been awarded to him to the amount of the injury sustained from the detention of one of them.

28. That he had sustained great injury by the detention of his ships could not be doubted; and it unfortunately happened that the persons upon whom he would have had immediate redress were no longer within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. He applied to this Government to detain them; but as his application was made previous to the judgement of the Supreme Court of Judicature, and presumed what we were not authorized to admit, that judgement would be given in his favor, it could not be complied with.

very desirous of preventing the Nizam from descending Moorighaut or, in other words, from taking the route of Purrainda. And with this view he made a proposal to His Highness, who was with some difficulty prevailed on by Azim ul Onirah to accede to it, that as on his army's taking this direction nothing could avert an immediate action with the Marattas, or "the veil of friendship from being rent": the *vakeel*, before it became too late, should make another attempt at negotiation, which would necessarily be rather tedious; and that as the Nizam could not conveniently, on account of the encreasing scarcity of forage in that neighbourhood, remain in his present camp much longer, both armies should occupy such a situation as, without distress to either, would admit of the requisite delay. He mentioned Moongeyputtum on the banks of the Godavery as a station that would be proper for the Paishwa, and Shalagurh for the Nizam, the former being 15 and the latter 26 *coss* from Aurnungabad, and the two distant, about 14 *coss*, from each other.

8. But it appears from our last advices that the Marrattas are not disposed (at least immediately) to proceed to the place proposed by Gobind Kishien, preferring in its stead that the negotiations should be carried on from the situations at present occupied by the two armies.

9. Perhaps a discovery of the strength and state of preparation of the Nizam's forces may prove more efficacious in producing peace between these two powers than any other mode which has hitherto been resorted to, especially as it is privately understood that the Mahratta chiefs begin to feel that all the benefits of success in the present struggle must exclusively apply to the aggrandizement of the Bramin supremacy. We quote this reflection from an address of the Resident at Poonah.

10. We transmit, as numbers in the packet, copies of the latest advices from Mysore, and are happy to observe that Tippoo does not seem, from any extraordinary preparations, to evince an intention of taking any, and much less an active, part in the existing disputes between the Courts of Poonah and Hydrabad.

Upper Provinces.

11. We had the honor of transmitting to you by the *Pitt*², as mentioned in the 16th paragraph of our letter by that ship, copies of a letter dated the 29th of January from the Resident at Lucnow to the Governor General, and of the Governor's answer, relative to the present state of the Vizier's administration, and the unpromising appearance of success to any effectual measure that can be adopted with His Excellency's concurrence to remedy the evils to which it is subject.

12. We now lay before you a copy of a letter of a subsequent date from the Resident at Luenow in continuation of his communications on the state of affairs at the Vizier's Court, but written previous to the receipt of the Governor General's, mentioned in the preceding paragraph, and are sorry that we cannot communicate more favorable accounts than those we had last the honor of

Fort Saint George and its dependencies.

2. In continuation of our last advices concerning the apprehension of the Raja of Ramnaad, we shall transmit in the packet copies of the orders issued relative to it by the Madras Government to the Collector and the Commanding Officers in that neighbourhood, also of the Collector's letters, and of one written to him by the directions of the Governor in Council expressive of His Lordship's highest approbation of Mr. Powney's conduct on that occasion.

Consn. 13th March,
Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7.

3. We have the satisfaction to acquaint you that on the 4th instant certain articles of agreement (of which we shall enclose a copy) were entered into for the better government of the Ramnadporam districts for a period of three years between Lord Hobart on the part of the Company and His Highness the Nabob of the Carnatic, promising the greatest advantages from the introduction of the Company's government in that country with regard to its general prosperity and to your investment in particular. They were received in this day only, and of course have not yet undergone our consideration.

Bombay and its dependencies.

4. In the 36th paragraph of our letter by the *Rose*, we acquainted you that we had addressed the Bombay Government on the subject of the depreciation of the *fanams* at Calicut, requiring both the grounds on which that reduction was made, and the reasons of its affecting the exchange of the *rahety* or revenue *hoon* into rupees at the established rate of 3 rupees per *hoon*, and we transmit a copy of their answer a number in this dispatch.

Consn. 13th March,
No. 17.

Consn. 13th March,
No. 20.

5. We have pleasure in being able to inform you that the progress of the cultivation of the pepper vine in the Malabar Provinces is rapidly encreasing, and that there is reason to hope that, in a few years, a very considerable number of these valuable plants will arrive at maturity.

Consn. 13th March,
No. 18.

The Nizam, Mahrattas and Tippoo Sultaun.

6. Copies of our latest advices from the Residents at Poonah and Hydrabad will be sent numbers in the packet.

7. The Nizam arrived at Purgong, a situation about 14 *coss* distant from the Maratta encampment, on the 14th of last month, and reviewed the advanced corps of his army on the 16th, desiring upon this occasion the attendance of Gobind Rao Kishen, the Maratta *vakeel*, who was accordingly with Azeem ul Omrah during the whole of the review and is said to have transmitted such accounts of the Nizam's force to his own Court as occasioned some anxiety, His Highness's army being, it is thought, in point of number and general equipment but little, if at all, inferior to that of the Paishwa. But whatever may have been the impressions of the Maratta *vakeel* on this subject, he seemed

Consn. 16th March,
No. 3.

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 12 MAY 1795

Peace not restored in Vijayanagaram—The Nawab of Arcot not justified in increasing tribute on the death of a palegar—Tipu disinclined to open Mysore to the Company's trade—Danish claims at Calicut regarded as having lapsed in 1788—The Nizam : his defeat in the battle of Kharda and the peace terms imposed upon him ; dismissal of the Company's battalions by Hyderabad—Alarming disorders in Sindia's territories—Oudh reforms—Ghulam Muhammad's petition for enhanced pension rejected—Arnott's escape to Allahabad—Gujrage Misser's mission to Nepal—Complete anarchy in Assam—Capt. Symes's mission to Burma—Additional loan to Babcock.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors &c.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We had the honor of addressing you from this Department on the 21st of March by the *Dart* packet, and we now transmit by your ship *Royal Admiral* and *Laseelles* a continuation of the detail forwarded by that opportunity.

Fort St. George and its dependencies.

2. Having taken into consideration, soon after the date of our last advices, the agreement which was entered into between the Governor of Fort Saint

George on the part of the Company and His Highness
 Consn. 23d March. the Nabob of the Carnatic for the better government of the Ramnadporam Districts, as well as His Lordship's proceedings which contained a very satisfactory explanation of that agreement, we approved and confirmed it.

3. We are concerned to acquaint you that the measures which were adopted by the Governor in Council with a view to the re-establishment of good order and government in the Vizianagram Zemindarry were not attended with the success that was expected, several of the hill polygars being still in arms¹ against the Company's authority. The Government at Fort Saint George, having thus been disappointed in their efforts to induce a submission by lenient measures, came to the resolution of augmenting the troops in the district, and of compelling obedience by force of arms. To this end they sent such a reinforcement of Europeans in addition to the force already in the district as they trusted would be sufficient to restore tranquillity. Commodore Rainer, with a zeal which upon all occasions has marked his public conduct, was no sooner acquainted with the wish of the Madras Government to send troops to Vizagapatam on one of His Majesty's ships than he readily offered to proceed himself with the *Suffolk* on that service.

4. The Nabob having written some time since to the Governor General

laying before you on the subject. We trust however that the Minister may be induced to persevere in the candid style of conduct, which he appears to have adopted in his late interviews with the Vizier, when he finds that our instructions to the Resident are to use his utmost influence to prevent Rajah Tickait Roy from receiving any personal insult or injury while he exerts himself in checking the abuses which at present exist in the revenue system of his master's government.

13. In continuation of what is stated in our last letter concerning Mr. Arnott, we have to acquaint you that, in consequence of orders issued by the Vizier to his *Aumils* in the Doâb to prevent him from carrying any guns, muskets and military stores, provided or manufactured in His Excellency's country, beyond its boundaries, intelligence was received that he was at a place called Coote on the banks of the Jumna with five pieces of cannon and 200 sepoy, and that 900 armed men in his pay were encamped at Rajepore on the other side of that river, that he was still enlisting men and it was supposed would cross the Jumna at a place called Shapoor in three or four days, and that he was in negotiation with the Maratta chief, Ally Bahauder.

14. Directions were, hereupon, sent by the Nabob to Mr. Arnott to deliver up the guns &c., to Almass Ally Cawn, the *Aumil* of that part of the country, taking his receipt for them, and to desist from enlisting men, disbanding those already entertained; and the *Aumil* was directed, in the event of Mr. Arnott's declining to obey the order, to shut the passage over the Jumna against this gentleman, and any other European attempting to cross without an express permission from His Excellency, and against all military stores whatever; and ultimately the *Aumil* was enjoined, in case of disobedience on the part of Mr. Arnott, to endeavour to seize him and send him to Lucnow.

15. The extension of the order to all Europeans was rendered necessary, as a person named Messelburgh, either a Dutchman or a German, who was in the service of Sherf Ally Khan, had gone from Lucnow a few days before, after embezzling some property belonging to his master and to others, and it was supposed had taken the road to join Mr. Arnott.

16. The Commanding Officer at Cawnpore was desired by the Resident, at the Nabob's request, to assist the *Aumil* in the execution of His Excellency's orders with a military force, if applied for; and a letter was written to Mr. Arnott by the Resident, requiring him to attend to those orders without delay at his peril, considering himself responsible for all consequences of disobedience on his part.

17. It being not impossible that other Europeans besides Mr. Arnott and the person we have mentioned might be engaged in similar transactions, the Commanding Officers at Cawnpore and Futtehghur were requested by the Resident to prohibit all Europeans whatever from passing beyond the frontiers, unless furnished with the express leave of the Governor General or the Nabob for that purpose. There is, in fact, a standing order to this effect.

Fort William,
21st of March, 1795.

We have the honor to be &c.

(Per Dart.)

Rajah and the Bibbee of Cannanore having been investigated and rejected by the Commissioners, we agreed with the Government of Bombay that he had no right to more than the pecuniary allowance he received ; and we desired that he might be acquainted accordingly.

7. The plan, already mentioned, of establishing commercial factories at Onore and Mangalore having been referred by the Governor in Council at Bombay to the principal European and native merchants there, we shall enclose copies of their answers.

8. The subject being thus brought again before us, we have entered into the further consideration of it.

9. By the terms of the treaties with the sovereigns of Mysore in 1770 and 1784, and in that of Seringapatam, which confirms the commercial stipulations in those treaties, the Company have a declared right to build a commodious factory and warehouses at Onore, as well as to purchase all the pepper and sandalwood produced in the Nabob's territories, with the liberty to export from Mangalore and other ports whatever rice they may want for Tellicherry. But, notwithstanding these stipulations, no trade has been carried on since the year 1780 at the ports of Tippoo's dominions ; and, as it is evident that it could not be prosecuted with advantage to the public or to individuals while the sovereign of the country is inimical to it, it appears to us that a claim founded on the treaty of 1770 might be attended with much embarrassment.

10. The stipulations in that treaty are little short of the terms of an offensive and defensive alliance ; and although they must be understood to have been done away by the Treaty of Seringapatam, with the tenor and terms of which they are incompatible, the article containing them remains unrepealed, and Tippoo Sultaun might demand our performance of the condition expressed in the Treaty of 1770, or disclaim such as are binding upon himself ; and the alternative would involve us in a predicament which we must desire to avoid.

11. But, setting aside the treaties referred to as the grounds of a claim to the establishment of factories at Onore and Mangalore, we may conjecture that Tippoo Sultaun has little inclination to invite or encourage the British commerce at his ports ; or we must at least think it very imprudent to advise any attempt on the part of the merchants to carry on the trade without some degree of security as to his disposition towards it and the protection they might trust to in conducting it. We therefore deem it, upon the whole, advisable to defer for the present the establishment of factories at Onore and Mangalore until a favorable opportunity may offer for it or for the discussion of a new commercial engagement with Tippoo Sultaun on principles less objectionable than those founded on the treaties in question. But we have requested the Government of Bombay to call upon the Supravisor of Malabar for his opinion, formed upon any circumstances or information that may have reached him, how far Tippoo Sultaun appears to be disposed or disinclined to the admission of the British trade into his ports or to enter into a commercial treaty with the Company.

12. We shall transmit in the packet a copy of a letter which we wrote

to inform him of the death of the Rajah of Colastray², His Highness's claim to a *peshcush* and increase of tribute on the appointment of a successor, and his intention to resume certain talooks held by the deceased Rajah and include them in his own *khalsa* possessions, it was admitted that His Highness's right to demand a *peshcush* from the new Rajah on his succession was conformable to the established usage of Hindostan which prescribes this acknowledgment from a vassal to his sovereign. His Highness was acquainted that the same custom prevailed in Bengal, but that the amount of the *peshcush* and *muzzerannah* received by the Company was small, and that from reasons of policy and justice even this had been altogether relinquished here; that with respect to his demands of an encrease of tribute from the new Rajah, and His Highness's intention to include the talooks in his own *jaghier*, the demise of a polygar or zemindar of any description could not authorize an enhancement in the amount of the tribute fixed by the treaty³ and specified in the schedule annexed to it; that if any increase should be allowable, it must be demanded upon other principles as mentioned at the time the treaty was settled; and that the terms of it equally opposed the resumption of the talooks, the revenues of which as well as of⁴ the other parts of the possessions of the Colastrian Rajah were assigned to the management of the Company.

Bombay and its dependencies.

5. We shall transmit to your Honorable Court by the present dispatch a copy of a letter which we wrote on the 10th of last month to the Governor in Council at Bombay in answer to his dispatches of the 18th and 28th of February upon subjects relative to your new possession in the province of Malabar, *vizt.*, the state of the coinage at Calicut, the check given to the slave trade in Malabar, supplies of rice from Mangalore, and the utility of establishing commercial factories at that settlement and Onore upon which we observed that the proposition would be considered when an opportunity should offer of opening a negotiation with Tippoo Sultaun on the subject. We notified also our intention to avail ourselves of the same opportunity to adjust (as proposed in the Report of the late Commissioners) the undetermined right of Tippoo Sultaun or of the Company to the district of Wynaad; and we desired in the mean time, and without deciding on this question between Tippoo and the Company, that as the Koorimnaad Rajah continued in the undisturbed possession of the district, he might be called upon to pay a reasonable revenue for it from the current year as long as he held that possession. We concurred in the terms of the answer of the Bombay Government to the Supravisor respecting the substitution of a money payment for the pepper grown in the Northern Division of Malabar, leaving the product to be sold by the cultivator as in the Southern Division: and we expressed our hope that we should receive early information of the settlements concluded by the Supravisor in the Northern Division for the present year, as well as of the completion of those in the Southern Division for the period of five years.

6. The claim of Hyat Saheb to the lands in dispute between the Cheralal

action took place between some of the corps of the two armies; the day was lost in alarm and indecision, and towards sunset the army of the Nizam halted on the bank of a river. There is no reason to suppose any effectual impediments to the continuance of the march towards Puranda on the next morning; but at eleven at night the Nizam gave orders for a precipitate retreat to the small fort of Kurdlah at the foot of the *gauts*, where he shut himself up.

17. The Mahrattas, surprized at the unexpected success of a skirmish in which the loss on both sides is not computed to exceed 150 men, knew well how to take advantage of it. The distress of the Nizam's army for provisions was extreme; and although, as it has since appeared, his troops had the means of foraging, they were either ignorant of them, or too much terrified to avail themselves of the knowledge. The retreat of the Nizam by re-ascending the *gauts* was impracticable, and no supplies could reach his army, the encreasing distress of which occasioned daily and multiplied desertions.

18. In this situation, with an army dispirited but not defeated, the Nizam was compelled to submit to the terms prescribed by the Peshwah. A negotiation through the Nizam's Minister Azeem ul Omrah was peremptorily refused; his dismissal or surrender seems to have been a stipulation insisted upon by the Peshwah, and the difficulty of concession appears to have delayed the termination of the negotiation. The difficulty was ultimately removed by the extraordinary measure adopted by Azeem ul Omrah himself, of delivering himself up to the Peishwah, by whom he was received with apparent civility, but was immediately placed in a strict confinement, where he has since remained. The conduct of Azeem ul Omrah in this instance appears to have been influenced by a motive of self-preservation, from the apprehended resentment of his numerous enemies in the Nizam's Court.

19. During the discussion, the Nizam remonstrated with our Resident, in terms of reproach, that our mediation had not been as effectual as it ought to have been, and that it ought to have been accompanied by a declaration that the prosecution of hostility against him by the Mahratta[s] would dissolve the friendship between them and the Company. To this representation, arising probably from the pressing anxiety and embarrassments of the Nizam, the Resident very properly replied in terms of conciliation and explanation, in strict conformity to those principles of neutrality which we have invariably professed and followed. The representation had in fact been frequently urged by the Minister and as often repelled.

20. The terms of pacification, as far as we can collect them from the information of the Resident at Poonah and an unofficial paper of news transmitted by Captain Kirkpatrick, appear to be as follows:—the payment of three crores of rupees, *vizt.*,

In full of arrears of <i>chout</i>	...	...	1,50,00,000
Reimbursement of equipment and losses	...	...	85,00,000 ¹⁰
Balance of an engagement for one crore of rupees with Scindia through Azeem ul Omrah	...	...	65,00,000
Total rupees			3,00,00,000.

The surrender of a territory yielding 35 lacks of rupees with some conditions

on the 24th ultimo to the Bombay Government upon a reference they made to us on the subject of your orders directing a further inquiry into the charge preferred by the Bibbee of Cannanore against General Macleod⁶. The letter contains our own instructions upon this subject, given with a view to the object of those from your Honorable Court, and we trust will receive your approbation.

Consn. 24 April,
No. 1.

13. In the 40th and subsequent paragraphs of our letter dated 30th Decem^r, 1794, we had the honor of laying before you a detail of what had passed between this Government and that of Bombay relative to an application made by the Danes for the restitution of the factory at Calicut, which had formerly belonged to that nation, but having been abandoned by their servants in the year 1788 when Tippoo took possession of the country with his army, was afterwards ceded by him to the Allies by the Treaty of Srirangapatam, and included in that share of the conquered country which was surrendered to the Company. We now transmit copies of the answer of the Danish Chief and Council at Tranquebar to the requisition of the Bombay Government for the proofs upon which the claim of restitution was founded.

Consn. 24 April,
No. 3.

14. The Supravisor of Malabar has been ordered to make a further inquiry on this subject; but we could not hesitate in the mean time to express an opinion that the explanations transmitted by the Government of Tranquebar, so far from their establishing a title to the factory in question, appeared to us to demonstrate that it was abandoned during the war with Tippoo Sultaun, and, having consequently been ceded by him to the Company, could not justly be reclaimed at this period by the Danish Government.

Consn. 24 April,
No. 4.

The Nizam, Mahrattas and Tippoo Sultaun.

15. Our address by the *Dart*⁷ informed you of the situation of the Nizam at Purgong, about fourteen miles distant from the Mahratta camp. We shall now briefly state the most material subsequent events, including the termination of hostilities between the Nizam and the Peshwah, referring for particulars to the transmitted copy of the correspondence of the Residents at Poonah and Hydrabad, as noticed in the margin⁸.

16. From these documents it will evidently appear that the disgrace and misfortunes of the Nizam are imputable to his own pusillanimity. With an army nearly equal⁹ in discipline, numbers and equipment to that of the Peshwah, he was induced, by the artful insinuations of the Mahratta agents stationed with him holding out the possibility of an accommodation, to hesitate and delay his march at the very moment when he ought to have acted with the greatest vigour. When these expectations, which ought not for a moment to have been entertained, ended in disappointment, he descended from his station on the *gauts* with a view to proceed to the fort of Puranda; and if he had prosecuted his march without delay, there is not a doubt that he might have accomplished the object of it. The appearance of a part of the Mahratta army with a distant and unimpressive cannonade arrested his progress, and gave the Peshwah time to bring up his forces; a skirmish rather than an

Nawaub Nizam Ally Khan, a reference was made to us by the Resident at Lucnow respecting the answer which His Excellency should return to the congratulations sent to him by the Mahratta chief on that occasion. We thought that any would be exceptionable, and however guarded in its language liable to mis-construction. His Excellency's friendly connection with both parties seemed to recommend in this instance a certain degree of prudence and reserve, corresponding with the line very properly adopted by Sir Charles Malet, your Resident at the Court of the Peshwa, on a similar occasion upon the issue of the contest between the two powers.

28. We received a letter, dated from Muttra the 6th of last month, from Major Palmer's acquainting us that he had had several interviews with Locawa Dada and Chitto Bapoo, the delegates of Dowlat Row Scindia, who expressed much satisfaction at his visit. It appears from Major Palmer's information that these officers, who have lately succeeded to the administration of the Mahratta affairs in Hindostan, found them in a state of very alarming disorder: the revenues grossly mismanaged or embezzled, and the collections so reduced as to be very inadequate to the expences of government; the Deccan troops and Hindostanny irregulars mutinous and disaffected for want of pay, and with difficulty restrained from the greatest outrages by the corps under M. De Boigne; the tributary Rajahs withholding their respective contributions, and preparing to resist the future exaction of them; the Seeks ready to invade and ravage the western provinces, and probably both that nation and the numerous Rajpoot princes meditating the acquisition of more solid and durable advantages from the war between the Paishwa and the Nabob Nizam Ally Khan.

29. Under these circumstances, it is probable that the situation of the Mahrattas in Hindostan would have been too arduous for their strength and resources, had the defeat of their army in the Deccan encouraged a general combination of the native powers in the north against them, and Major Palmer expresses his assurance that such a combination would, in that event, have taken place.

30. The impatience with which those powers always bear the encroachments¹² and impositions of the Mahrattas was at this time, he observed, greatly heightened by the heavy exactions which the Naibs of Dowlat Row have been compelled by their pecuniary distresses to make upon the Rajahs of Birtpore and Macherry¹³, to whom the late Mahajee Scindia was indebted for his safety and the recovery of his power after his defeat in Jeypore.

31. It appears that the Rajah of the last mentioned district had made some progress towards levying a formidable body of troops, but had been checked in his design by the intelligence of the Paishwah's success and that Lacawa Dada¹⁴ was marching towards Jeynagur to enforce the dismissal of the new levies and the payment of arrears of tribute, both to Shaw Allum and to Sindia, amounting to 15 lacks of rupees.

32. We recapitulate an important observation of Major Palmer that, if a judgement may be formed of the power and policy of the Mahratta State from their Government in Hindostan, it is but ill qualified for permanent conquest or civil administration, however formidable it may be from the mean

of inferior moment, including *darbar* charges¹¹ to the Mahratta Ministers and a compensation to Ragojee Bhoslah, the Rajah of Berar.

21. The engagement of skirmish happened on the 11th March and the Nizam commenced his march to Hyderabad on the 3d April. It was stopped by the prohibition of the Mahratta agent for a few hours.

22. Many of the reflections suggested by this narrative have been anticipated in the Governor General's minute of the 18th of February last, and the consequences to the Nizam were long ago foreseen and pointed out to his Minister. Exclusively of an accession of wealth, territory and reputation, the Mahrattas have now established an influence and controul over the Nizam from which he will never be able to emancipate himself. To this influence we are compelled to attribute the dismissal of the detachment stationed with the Nizam, which was notified to our Resident with an abruptness that fully proves the conclusion, although Meer Allum, on the part of the Nizam, affects to attribute the return of the corps to an economical arrangement.

23. Under any other circumstances, we should have received the notification of its dismissal with satisfaction, as we considered the services on which it was employed by the Nizam not only delicate and hazardous but disgraceful. It is a justice due to Major Roberts who commanded the detachment to mention the prudence and circumspection of his conduct in a variety of delicate situations, and we have communicated these sentiments to the Presidency of Fort Saint George, from which he was detached, with a desire that our acknowledgments may be notified to him.

24. We have directed the Residents at Hyderabad and Poonah to furnish us with the best procurable details of the forces of the Nizam and Peshwah; those of the latter have been estimated at 73,600 cavalry, 38,000 infantry and 192 guns. One of the brigades under General De Boigne in the service of Dowlat Rao Scindia joined the Peshwah commanded by Monsicur Peron, and the Nizam had with him 28 battalions under the command of Monsieur Raymond. These troops are clothed and disciplined after the European manner, and have many officers of different nations attached to them, and constitute the strength of the infantry in the armies to which they belong.

25. We shall not pretend to detail the consequences of the Peshwah's success and the Nizam's degradation. It is our duty, as it will be our care, to watch with attention the progress of the Mahrattah's ambition, which is ever vigilant and prospective. The forces which they left in the northern parts of Hindostan have at present sufficient employment in the subjection of numerous petty states, and some time must elapse before the return of the troops of Dowlat Rao Scindia to the north.

26. Copies of the latest papers of intelligence which we have received from Mysore will be sent numbers in the packet. They contain no information of an interesting nature.

Upper Provinces.

27. The Commanding Officer of Dowlat Row Scindia's troops in Indostan having advised the Nabob Vizier of the success of the Peshwah against the

of a letter, dated the 5th of last month, from the Resident at Lucnow, a spontaneous assurance made to him by the Nabob Vizier that it was His Excellency's intention to apply himself to the adjustment of the affairs of his Government, to discharge the heavy debts which had accumulated, and to secure the regular payments of the subsidy to the Company. These subjects leading to a general reform, which we had so long and so earnestly advised without success, were very soon afterwards discussed at a meeting desired by the Nabob himself between him and your Resident, and the interview closed with His Excellency's giving directions to Rajah Tickait Roy to consult with Mr. Cherry on the state of affairs, by no means whatever to keep any matter secret from him, and to pay attention to what he might recommend.

37. It appeared that His Excellency had already given orders for discharging six battalions of infantry, and that he proposed to discharge cavalry also and to discontinue several disbursements to people called *Emtyazy*,¹⁵ [a] description of pensioners; but these measures are trivial in comparison with the great reforms requisite; and your Resident has advised Tickait Roy, as a first step, to prepare an account stating the receipts and disbursements in the gross from the death of Hyder Beg Khan to the present time, the amount of debt existing at the death of that Minister, the debt which has accumulated since, and the interest payable on the aggregate, and to lay these statements before the Nabob.

38. We approved generally of Mr. Cherry's communications with His Excellency in the interview between them; but there was an assurance which he made to him, as you will observe from his recital, that we thought it proper to notice, that "unless asked, it was the Governor General's firm resolve not to intrude his recommendations upon him." We considered this declaration not only unguarded, but inconsistent with the strong recommendations already pressed upon the Vizier by Marquis Cornwallis, and enforced by the Governor General. We were also of opinion that if the Vizier should think proper to take advantage of it, a circumstance to be apprehended from his habits and disposition, it would add to the embarrassments attending any future remonstrances we might be compelled to make on the subject of reform in his administration.

39. We shall transmit in the packet a copy of the Governor General's answer to Mr. Cherry's letter, prescribing the principles and instructions necessary for his general guidance in pursuing what has thus been commenced, to what termination we cannot judge. Experience admits of little reliance on the perseverance of the Nabob in the good intentions he has expressed to your Resident. At all events it is our duty to encourage and promote them.

40. In the 15th paragraph of our advices dated the 6th of March¹⁶ by the *Pitt*, we acquainted you that the definitive agreement between the Rohilla chiefs and the Nabob Vizier had been concluded, and the Company's engagement of guarantee for His Excellency's observance of it ratified by the Governor General.

41. We beg leave to refer your Honorable Court to the copies, sent in

which it possesses of ravage and devastation. The whole country under its subjection, from the Chumbul to the Ganges, is in the most miserable state of neglect and disorder; the lands deserted and the cultivation so scanty as scarcely to supply subsistence to the remaining inhabitants; the roads infested with numerous bands of robbers to such a degree as to render them impassable but to strong escorts, particularly in the neighbourhood of Delhi, where they are so formidable as to set the force of the Government at defiance and to menace even the city itself.

In this disgraceful and ruinous condition of the country and Government, a large army is employed in seeking its own subsistence by exacting unjust contributions from the defenceless Rajahs of Hindostan, instead of repressing the violences and depredations committed in their own territories and protecting their own subjects and revenues.

33. But to the obvious consequences of such a state of things, we think it necessary to oppose these reflections, that amongst the numerous independent Rajahs including that of Jeypore, we know not one who possesses sufficient energy of character and influence to combine and direct such a confederacy as would be requisite for opposing the Mahratta powers and encroachments; that if a sense of danger occasionally suggests the idea of an union, it is rendered impracticable by mutual jealousy and distrust; and that power which if confederated would prove an effectual check to the Mahratta ambition is ruined in detail from the causes which we have stated.

34. Major Palmer, in the course of his conversation with the Mahratta *sirdars*, perceived a jealousy of any intercourse or connection between the King and our Government; and that although they were satisfied his visit to the King was only complimentary, they would have been better pleased if he had dispensed with making it. As they could not decently oppose his journey, they endeavored to divert him from it by offers of providing him with suitable accommodations for his residence at any other place; but he very properly declined yielding to their wishes on this point, as it might have been considered as an acknowledgement of their right to exclude all other powers from communication with the King. He also advised us that they were very urgent with him to apply for our permission to make some place in Scindia's dominions his abode until Dowlut Row should return to Hindostan.

35. We have approved of his visit to the Mahratta chieftains and have left it to his discretion to repeat it as often as he may think proper; but we do not admit the expediency of his residence within the limits of Scindia's dominions during the absence of Dowlut Rao. We recommended his inattention to the wishes of Dowlut Rao Scindia's *Naibs* against his prosecuting his visit to Delhi; and although we cannot admit of any interference on the part of the Mahrattas in respect to our communications with the King or any of the powers of India, we have desired him to make choice of some place within the Vizier's country for his residence in preference to Delhi. No political object can be answered by his continuance there; and although we are not disposed to pay attention to Mahratta jealousy, we are disposed to avoid any measure that is likely to excite it unnecessarily.

36. Your Honorable Court will observe, upon perusing the enclosed copy

48. Major Palmer, your Resident with Dowlut Row Sindia, has been instructed to make application in friendly terms to Ally Behaudre to deliver up Messrs. Arnott and Bellassis as subjects of this Government, who, after having been guilty of a public offence, have fled from its jurisdiction; and Sir Charles Malet has been desired to promote the object of it by a similar application to the Court of Poonah.

Consn. 10 April.

Nepaul.

49. We advised your Honorable Court, in our General Letter dated the 4th of February, of our intention to send on a commission to Napaul Abdul Khauder Khan, the person who was employed in negotiating the commercial treaty with the Rajah of that country; and a copy of his instructions was at the same time transmitted to you. The Rajah shewing himself disinclined to this deputation, which was authorized by the terms of the commercial treaty, Abdul Khauder's journey was delayed; and the Resident at Benares, who has been in correspondence with the Napaul Rajah for several years, sent Gudrage Misser to Napaul to remove the scruples or apprehensions that appeared to have obtained with the Rajah relative to Abdul Khauder's going to Cutmandu. This has been effectually accomplished by Gudrage Misser, who procured an invitation from the Napaul Rajah to Abdul Khauder to proceed without delay with apologies for his former objections, and he has proceeded accordingly.

50. We had suspected that Durmanaut Appadiah, the late *vakeel* on the part of the Rajah at Calcutta, had an interest in counteracting the establishment of the system of commerce and connection, which it had been the object of this Government to effect with that of Nepaul, from his jealousy of any intercourse between us through other channels than his own, and from the advantages which he derived from an exclusive trade; and we are now confirmed in our belief that the Rajah's apparent disinclination to the measure had its origin in the intrigues and influence of this man, whose return to Napaul preceded the Rajah's letter dissuading the journey of Abdul Cadeer. If this should be the case, it affords us encouragement to hope that the objects of the expedition may be ultimately fulfilled. A copy of a minute laid before us by the Governor General on this subject and copies of the papers to which it refers will be sent numbers in the packet.

51. The allowances assigned to Abdul Khuder Khan on the present service are the same as those which were given to him on his two former journeys to Nepaul.

Assam.

52. We are not now much interested in the affairs of Assam, having withdrawn all interference whatever in them on the recall of Captain Welsh's battalion. But we think it proper to acquaint you that, on the deposition of the old *Surge Deo* by his subjects, one of the great grandsons of their antient Rajah, by name Sree Rajesser Sing¹⁸, was substituted in the *Rauje* of Gohatty in his

Consn. 30th March.
Do. 10th April.

this packet, of a letter from Mr. Cherry, dated the 13th of March, with its enclosure, relative to some points since discussed with
 Consn. 23rd March. Nussar Ulla Khan's *vakeel* concerning the late arrange-
 Consn. 30th March. ments at Rampore; and we shall transmit with them a copy of the Governor General's answer upon those points. You will also receive in the packet a copy of a letter received on the 6th ultimo by the Governor General from Golaum Mahomed Khan soliciting an increase to the sum (*vizt.*, eighteen thousand rupees per annum) allowed for his maintenance, and that the same income might be granted to him that he enjoyed in the life time of his father, the late Fyzoola Khan; and in the same letter he requested, if the increase should not be allowed, permission to make a pilgrimage to Mecca by the way of Calcutta and Bombay.

42. Under all these circumstances of his case, we did not think him entitled to any increase of his allowance; and this determination was notified to him, with a reference to the occurrences which had placed him in his present situation, but without any recital of them. It was recommended to him to send for his family from Rampore and to remain at Benares in full security under the protection of our Government: or, he was at liberty to prosecute his proposed pilgrimage to Mecca.

43. Mr. Duncan has been instructed to pay to Golaum Mahomed Khan what was due for his allowance from the 1st of December, 1794, the date fixed by agreement, and to continue to discharge it monthly, carrying the sum to account in the same manner as is done with respect to the pension allowed by the Nabob Muzaffer Jung of Ferocabad to his brother Dil Dilere Khan.
 Consn. 27th April.

45.¹⁷ We are since informed that Golaum Mahomed Khan has left Benares, and is on his way to the Presidency. This resolution was adopted and executed by him on the receipt of the Governor General's reply to his application.

46. We shall transmit in the packet a copy of a short minute laid before us by the Governor General in respect to the conduct of Mr. T. M. Arnott which was mentioned in our two last letters. Upon
 Cons. 3d April. hearing of the parties sent to apprehend him, he made his escape towards Allahabad, leaving behind the whole or a principal part of his private baggage and the military stores he had collected: and these were seized by the Nabob's *Aumils*. The private baggage has been given up, but we have advised the Nabob to retain the military stores, although an indirect pretention was made to them as the property of Ally Behaudre after Mr. Arnott arrived in his camp.

47. There being every reason to believe that Mr. J. H. Billasses has now proceeded to join Mr. Arnott, or to enter into the service of the country powers, we have determined that he has by his conduct totally forfeited any claim to the Company's protection, and, in the same manner as has been directed with respect to Mr. Arnott, that he shall be apprehended and sent to the Presidency, if he shall be found at any time within the precincts of the Nabob's dominions.
 Consn. 23d March.
 27 Do.
 30 Do.
 3d April.
 24th Do.

Commissioners; and of our answer to it, in which we endeavored to remove the apprehension they were under of a visit from the French, Consn. 10th April. and assured them that according to the intelligence that might be received of the enemy's hostile purposes, the zeal and vigilance of Commodore Rainer, the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's squadron in India, would be promptly directed to counteract them, as far as that could be effected by the force under His Excellency's command.

58. You are advised, in our letter of the 6th of March, of an advance of money we had made to Mr. Adam Babcock, and the circumstances that occasioned it, to enable him to pursue his voyage to Europe. He lately transmitted to us a copy of a decree of the Court of Admiralty at Fort William respecting the damage and costs of the American ship *Enterprize*, (which we have had transcribed and shall forward in another copy by this dispatch) and, as the decree of the Court was conditional of the payment (sic) were made here or made in England, he made application to us to be informed whether it would be agreeable to us to close the business here, either in behalf of the Company or in behalf of the captors or both, deducting what he had already received, and promising, in case the payment were made here, to execute either his assignment or discharge, as the case might be, of the judgement and decree of the Court in his favor in the cause of the ship *Enterprize*.

59. Copies of this letter, dated the 28th ultimo, and of the answer sent to it by our directions on the 30th will be transmitted numbers in the packet. You will observe that we did not consent to discharge the amount decreed by the Supreme Court against the captors of that ship.

60. On the same day, the 30th of April, Mr. Babcock represented to us that he found a deficiency of his funds to clear him from Bengal, of about two thousand five hundred rupees, owing to the extraordinary expences incident to finishing the cause of the *Enterprize* in Court, and the ship's extra expences from this unexpected detention, and earnestly requested our assistance in granting him this small sum on the same terms that the former grant was made to him. Considering the unimportance of the amount, we consented to its being advanced to him on the terms he mentioned, and we inclose a copy of the acknowledgement he delivered for it.

61. We transmit to you by this dispatch copies of a letter dated the 20th of March and of its enclosures, which we received on the 4th instant from the Resident at Grain, advising us of the prospect there was that he should be able to bring the long pending dispute with the *Bacha* of Bagdat to a speedy and honorable termination, and that the *Bacha* appeared to be seriously inclined to take the measures which were necessary to induce Mr. Manesty to effect the re-establishment of the British factory at Bussorah.

Fort William,
the 12th May, 1795.

We have the honor to be,
Honorable Sirs,
Your most faithful humble servants.

(Per Royal Admiral.)

place, since which there has been another revolution. The new Rajah has been assassinated, but by whom he is succeeded we are not informed.

Burmas.

53. According to our orders to Lieutenant Colonel Erskine, advised in our letter to your Honorable Court, dated the 6th of March, the prisoners Pulong, Quey Poke, and Queytagongning were delivered up to the Rajah of the *Subah*, the Judge of Arracan, and the Receiver of the Revenues, these three persons having been deputed by the Viceroy to take charge of them. Lieutenant Colonel Erskine explained our instructions to the prisoners and to the officers who received them, and the latter assured him that, as far as rested with them, a strict attention should be paid to our wishes.

54. We have the satisfaction to acquaint you that Captain Symes¹⁹, whom we deputed to the Court of Ava for the purposes stated in his instructions, of which a copy has been transmitted to you, arrived at Rangoon on the 20th of March. He advises us that every mark of attention and respect due to the agent of the British Government was shewn to him at his first introduction, and that several of the principal members of the Government of Rangoon went down the river to meet him, but that their actions still evinced distrust and jealousy, and that their conduct, until within the two days preceding the date of his letter, was such as to render his speedy return to Bengal a probable circumstance. Captain Symes now hoped, however, they were satisfied that their suspicions were groundless, suspicions, which he believed, were incited by others rather than originating with themselves. They had done away those indications of distrust which were manifested during the first week of his residence, and he was sanguine in the expectation of attaining in the end the objects of his deputation. He was to set out on the next day (the 31st of March) to pay his respect to the Rajah of Pegu at the antient city of that name, about 70 miles distant from Rangoon. He had been informed that the Rajah proposed to go soon to Ava, and advises us that until he had visited him nothing could be determined relative to his further journey.

55. We shall remark on the information of Captain Symes that it contains only what we had reason to expect. It was natural to suppose that his deputation would meet with some obstacles; but, in the confidence of its ultimate success, we were not alarmed at the prospect of intervening difficulties.

Miscellaneous.

56. We think it necessary to mention to you the subject of letters which we received on the 7th of last month from the Commissioners General at Batavia and the Director and Council at Chinsurah, upon apprehensions they entertained of an expedition meditated at the French Islands against Batavia and Java with a force, the strength of which was variously reported, one account making it to consist of six frigates or privateers, another twelve, and another eighteen; and they solicited speedy assistance from us, having no expectation of the arrival of any ships of war at Batavia from Europe.

57. We shall transmit in the packet copies of the letter from the

and arbitrary exaction, we deemed ourselves authorized to assume a sum proportionate to the annual tribute, which, in addition thereto, might be paid without distressing the polygar, or depreciating the right of sovereignty intended to be secured to His Highness by treaty.

5. We are informed that in consequence of these instructions, and at Lord Hobart's suggestion, it had been determined that a sum not exceeding one lack of rupees should be paid by the Rajah of Colastry to the Nabob as a *muzzor* on his investiture.

6. Copies of Lord Hobart's minute on this subject and copies of His Lordship's letters to the Nabob and the Rajah of Colastry will be sent numbers in the packet.

7. We beg leave to refer to the accompanying copies of a letter and its enclosures from the Madras Government relative to the information which they had received from the Resident at Hydrabad, of the presumed intention of several French officers, prisoners of war on parole at Pondicherry, to join Monsieur Raymond, who commands a corps in the Nizam's service, and stating the measures which they adopted in consequence.

8. It is sufficient to observe that these intentions, if they actually existed, have been effectually defeated.

Consn. 15 June,
No. 8.
Consn. 13th July,
No. 7.

The Nabob Nizam Ally Khan, the Mahrattas, and Tippoo Sultaun.

9. Our last dispatches by the *Royal Admiral* communicated the progress and conclusion of hostilities between the Nizam and the Peshwah, and the terms of pacification as far as we were then informed of them.

(Vide the 15 and succeeding paragraphs.)

10. We have now the honor of laying before you a copy of the treaty, officially communicated by the Nizam's orders to your Resident at his Court.

Consn. 12 June,
No. 2.

11. It is comprized in a single article, confirming all the stipulations of the Treaty of Eedghir², excepting those contained in the 3d article of it, which has a reference to any eventual conquests of territory possessed by Tippoo Sultan. This article is declared to be suspended for the present on account of the treaty concluded between the three States with Tippoo Sultaun. The Peshwah acknowledges the right of the Nizam to Adone and Kurnoul, but asserts his claim to a *choute* from these districts, and his right to exact the payment of it, if it should not be regularly discharged.

Consn. 12 June,
No. 1.

12. The late cessions of country are not specifically mentioned in the treaty. The reasons assigned to your Resident for the omission are that these stipulations, being mere matter of detail, were not of sufficient importance to be enumerated in an instrument, the object of which was to restore the ancient political union of the two States; but a copy of the subsidiary

Consn. 26th June,
No. 2.

Consn. 12th June,
No. 5.

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 18 AUGUST 1795

The Palegar of Kalahasti (Colastry) to pay only one lakh of rupees to the Nawab of the Carnatic as nazarana—Terms of the peace treaty between the Nizam and the Marathas—Col. Raymond's corps sent by the Nizam to quell disturbances in Cuddapah : Company's objection and its withdrawal—Rebellion of Prince Ali Jah and the Nizam's demand for military aid : Madras Government's objections—Five year revenue settlement in Malabar—Survey and settlement of the Laccadives : opening of the islands to free trade—Slackness in the fulfilment of the pepper contract by Travancore—Surrender of Arnott—Refusal to hand over the wives and families of the Burmese fugitives—Capt. Symes at Pegu—Regular forces withdrawn from internal duties.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have now the honor to transmit, in continuation of our dispatches by the *Royal Admiral* and *Lascelles*, the detail of such events as have since occurred.

Fort St. George and its dependencies.

2. In the 4th paragraph of our address by the *Royal Admiral*¹, we acquainted you with the claim preferred by His Highness the Nabob of Arcot to a *peshcush* and increase of tribute on the appointment of a successor to the late Rajah of Calastray with our sentiments upon it.

3. Upon a further reference from Fort Saint George, it appeared that the Nabob was by no means disposed to limit his demands to the amounts which he had recommended, on the contrary that he had resolved to adhere to the ancient practice of extorting as much as possible from the new Rajah.

4. Upon this reference, after a full discussion of the rights and claims of His Highness, we communicated to the Government of Fort Saint George our concurrence with their opinion on the policy of restricting His Highness's demands on the polygars as far as might be consistent with the treaty of 1792; that we should feel much satisfaction if the moderate rate proposed by them and corresponding with the former usage in Bengal were made the standard for the present and all future similar cases; but that, if the Nabob could not be persuaded to acquiesce, and if by the established usage of the country he were entitled to a higher fine of investiture from the Rajah of Colastria, we were of opinion that the treaty of 1792 required the reservation of the Nabob's right to it, provided the exercise of it were compatible with the realization of the tribute; if, on the contrary, as we presumed as probable, the law of usage were indefinite, considering the difficulty of drawing a line between just demand

Consn. 8th June,
No. 2.

opportunity presented itself; that the measure was liable to embarrassing misconstruction; and that the world, judging from appearances only, might attribute His Highness's conduct to motives foreign to those sentiments of regard which he had long and constantly professed, and which it was our sincere wish to cultivate.

21. We further instructed the Resident, if these representations had not their effect, to adopt the language of remonstrance, and ultimately acquaint His Highness that, if the detachment were not recalled, we should be compelled, with whatever reluctance, to advance a body of troops towards our frontiers.

22. It is proper to add that the Nizam had been sufficiently apprized of the principles and conduct of the French to be enabled to judge of the attention due to the representation directed to be eventually made to him; but before our instructions reached the Resident he had agreed, with a view to prevent the continuance of any part of Raymond's corps on our frontier, to a proposal of the Nizam's that, if the reduced force ordered to Kurpah should prove insufficient for the service there, the Company should undertake to perform it by a detachment of their own troops, under stipulations respecting the payment of them.

23. Soon after this arrangement, on the 28th of June, the Prince Ali Jah, the Nizam's eldest son, suddenly fled from Hydrabad, accompanied by the former *Soubahder* of that place, and by Suddasheo Reddy, a considerable zemindar in His Highness's dominions; and, on the same day, His Highness signified to the Resident his desire to be furnished, as expeditiously as possible, in conformity to treaty, with a detachment of the Company's troops of the stipulated strength, and that they should proceed directly to Hydrabad.

24. The Resident, after some discussion which had for its object the total removal of the French corps from Kurpah and the prevention of its return there, finally agreed to recommend an immediate compliance with the Nizam's requisition, as well as with his application for an additional force to be stationed in Kurpah, provided it could be conveniently spared; and we not only confirmed these recommendations, but agreed also, as a proof of our friendly disposition towards His Highness, that the pay of the detachment should commence from the date of its actual march, although we were authorized by treaty to insist upon the advance of a month's subsidy.

25. We at the same time wrote to the Government of Fort St. George to give the necessary directions for carrying into execution the whole of the stipulations made by the Resident with the Nizam, as noticed in a letter from him to the Governor General, of which he had transmitted a copy to Fort St. George, *vizt.*, for the immediate march of the detachment stipulated by treaty towards Hydrabad, and to afford, if practicable, assistance to the Nizam's authority in Kurpah from the adjacent station of Indigherry on application from His Highness's principal officer in that district.

26. This last measure, which the Resident at Hydrabad was induced to encourage with the view already mentioned (to prevent the employment of a foreign force on our boundary), having appeared to Lord Hobart, who addressed the Governor General on the subject from Ganjam, not only impracticable under the present employment of our military force, but

engagement, containing a specification of the ceded districts, has been subsequently communicated to your Resident, not without considerable reluctance.

13. Of the districts mentioned in this agreement, many of them are so blended in situation with the territories of the Nizam that the possession of them by the Mahrattas must be productive of inconvenience and possibly of danger to His Highness, sensible of which he has endeavoured, as we are informed, by soliciting it as a personal favor to have them exchanged for others not exposed to the same objections. It is probable, however, that the Mahrattas will not readily assent to a request which has a tendency to emancipate the Nizam from an interference which it is their object to maintain.

14. We have the satisfaction to observe that (unless any articles of the treaty should have been withheld) the two States have given a convincing proof of their disposition to adhere to the Treaty of Seringapatam in all matters relating to themselves, the Company, and Tippoo Sultaun.

15. We have the honor of transmitting in the packet copies of the official communications which have taken place between the
 Consn. 8th June, Poona Ministry and Sir Charles Malet on the subject
 Nos. 7, 8 & 9. of the treaty, merely as they tend to elucidate those that have passed between His Highness the Nizam and your Resident at Hydrabad.

16. By the advices received to the period of our last dispatches, the Nizam was then on his return to his capital, which he reached without much delay. He appears to have been greatly embarrassed in the selection of a successor to his late Minister Auzim ul Omrah, who still remains under restriction at Poonah, and no arrangement of his administration appears yet to have been formed.

17. On a reference to the proceedings noted on the margin, you will find the communication of a resolution adopted by the Nizam to detach a considerable proportion of the troops under Monsieur Raymond to Kurpah, a district which joins the Northern Circars. The motive assigned for this measure was to quell disturbances in that quarter, for which purpose the troops under Raymond were better qualified than any others in the service of His Highness.

18. It further appears that Monsieur Raymond and his officers were particularly solicitous to obtain an establishment in Kurpah, and also that they have strongly imbibed the principles of their countrymen in Europe.

19. The eventual dangers from a force commanded by French officers being stationed on the frontiers of our territories occasioned a representation from your Resident, in consequence of which the quota of troops originally destined for the service of Kurpah was much reduced; but, we thought it expedient to endeavor, by a formal representation to the Nizam, to procure their entire recall.

20. Your Resident was directed to support it by urging to His Highness the danger which might result, both to his own Government and that of his allies, from stationing on the British frontiers, beyond
 Consn. 15th June, the reach of his immediate controul, a large body of
 No. 6. troops under the command of men to whose principles he could not be a stranger, and who might be induced to prefer the interests of their own countrymen to their allegiance to him, whenever a favourable

34. At the same time, the security of the Company's possessions being paramount to all other considerations, and Lord Hobart appearing to be of opinion that the state of our military force, particularly since the late embarkations, was insufficient to authorize any detachment towards Kurpah in addition to the two stipulated battalions, we left the final decision upon the Nizam's application to His Lordship's discretion, and advised the Resident accordingly.

35. It is possible that the exigency of the case may not be so great as it first appeared; and we are happy in being able to add that the division of Raymond's corps, intended for Kurpah, has been since employed to quell other disturbances in Adoni and Rachore.

36. By the latest accounts from Hyderabad, it appears that Monsieur Raymond had been successful in his expedition against the fort of Undah. We have no reason to conclude that the revolt of the Nizam's son has been instigated or encouraged by the Mahrattas. On the contrary, we are rather disposed to admit the information communicated to us through the Resident at Hyderabad that the Peshwah will support the Nizam against the rebellion of Suddasheo Reddy and his son to any requisite extent.

37. In the 24th paragraph of our last dispatch, we transmitted for your information the fullest and most accurate accounts we had been able to procure of the strength of the Mahratta army as well as of the state of its general equipment during the late campaign against the Nizam.

38. We have now the honor to forward a number in the packet a similar detail relative to the force and state of preparation of His Highness's army on that occasion.

39. Copies of the dispatches, in any respect material, that we have received from Hyderabad and Poona since the date of our last advices will be sent numbers in the packet.

40. The advices from the Mysore country contain nothing of importance.

Consn. 22d May,
Nos. 5 & 6. Consn. 5th
June, Nos. 6, 7, 8 &
9. Consn. 22nd June,
Nos. 3, 4 & 5. Consn.
2d [3d] July, No. 3.
Consn. 13th July, No.
4. Consn. 27th July,
No. 5. Consn. 1st Au-
gust, No. —. Consn.
7th August, No. —.

Bombay and its dependencies.

41. The administration of the province of Malabar since the resignation of Mr. Farmer has been ably and successfully conducted by his successor, Mr. Stevens.

42. The introduction of the regulations for the province in general has been effected with more facility in the Southern than in the Northern Division. To establish them in this last Division, it became necessary for the Supervisor to proceed there himself with a military force of sufficient strength to prevent opposition, and this measure accordingly received our sanction. At the same

generally exceptionable on grounds of policy and the discipline of our troops, we thought it necessary to point out to him the reasons which influenced our resolutions on this subject; and, for your full information, shall repeat them in this place.

27. That we equally regretted with His Lordship the obligation imposed upon us by the treaty³ to furnish the Nizam on his requisition with a detachment of our troops; and our instructions to the Resident at Hyderabad had long ago conveyed our sentiments to him and our wishes that the troops could be relieved from the disgraceful services on which they were too often employed. But as the obligations of the treaty with respect to the surrender of Guntore had been fulfilled by the Nizam, this consideration gave additional weight to the Nizam's claim to our assistance under the same treaty.

28. The desire of the Nizam for additional assistance stood upon different grounds; and for a compliance with it, if practicable, the following considerations occurred.

29. That the preservation of the Nizam's power is of importance to the Company cannot be doubted; and it is therefore our interest to support his Government as far as it can be done with a probability of success, and without much inconvenience, or the risk of involving ourselves in the consequences of its subversion, an event which, however probable, it is essentially for our advantage to protract without calculating the possible consequences of it.

30. If the values and importance of our friendship and assistance are to be estimated by the exigency for them, there is no period in which the grant of them could be made with more favourable impression and effect than under the present circumstances of loss and disgrace sustained by the Nizam in his late contest with the Marattas, the disappointment of his expectations of our interposition, the embarrassments in his Government by the insurrection of his subjects, the defection of his son, and even the fears of the Nizam for his personal safety.

31. If the commotions excited by Suddasheo Reddy, and in Kurpah, should not be speedily quelled, they might lead to disturbances in other parts of his dominions; and if, by the moderate assistance proposed to be given to the Nizam in addition to that which we are bound to furnish by treaty, the progress of commotion and disaffection in his dominions should be stopped, we establish a claim upon the attachment of our ally by rendering him an important service at the expence of little exertion.

32. The recall of Raymond's corps from our frontiers was also a consideration of great importance; and under the relative circumstances of the Company and Nizam, their dignity could not be affected by an accomodation to provide for the safety of the former [sic], as much as to remove a ground of apprehension to us.

33. The reflections suggested by the foregoing observations might have been pursued further, but we judged the above sufficient to shew the policy and propriety of the measure proposed by the Resident, under a provisional reference to our convenience; and we doubt not they will have the concurrence of your Honorable Court.

of another instance of very improper conduct of the Rajah of Cheral in having summoned the Northern Superintendent to attend the ceremony of the coronation of the Calastry Rajah⁴ with a present. As, however, we are not yet fully advised of the circumstances of this transaction, which is represented by the Rajah to be a religious ceremony of long existence and practiced in the Government of Hyder, we think it sufficient at present to refer you to our letters to Bombay of the annexed date, desiring a further enquiry and report.

49. In compliance with a recommendation from the late Commissioners in Malabar, we directed a survey of the Laccadive Islands, held by the Bibby of Cannanore, for the purposes of ascertaining their actual state and produce preparatory to a future assessment, and of relieving the inhabitants from the grievances they were stated to suffer by a monopoly of their trade and the extortion of their labor by the Bibby's officers for her benefit.

50. The report (of which we enclose a copy) from the gentleman appointed to survey them confirms the existence of these grievances to the full extent before represented; and the Governor in Council at
 Consn. 24th July,
 Nos. 1, 2 & 3. Bombay concurring in opinion with the Supravisor of Malabar that many advantages would accrue to the Company from allowing a freedom of trade to the islanders, we have agreed that the monopoly of the trade of the several islands dependent on Cannanore shall be immediately abolished, and that the duties on imports from them to any port on the Malabar Coast be regulated in like manner with the duties on imports from other places.

51. This measure appeared to us fully justified, as well by our conquest of Cannanore and the subsequent cession of it from
 Consn. 27th July,
 No. 1-B. Tippoo, as by the agreement entered into by the Bibby with the Commissioners, a copy of which forms a number in the packet. A moiety of the duties to be levied at Cannanore is the utmost she can, under that agreement, be entitled to.

52. It may be practicable and just, however, in consequence of the abolition of the monopoly of the trade of the Laccadive Islands⁵ and of the correction of all abuses of authority, to make some addition to the direct revenue now drawn from them by the
 Consn. 27th July,
 No. 2. Bibby; and we have proposed to the Governor in Council at Bombay that he should direct the Supravisor to consult with the Bibby on the best mode of managing her several islands in future, and settle with her such plan as may appear most conducive to the ease and security of the inhabitants, and, at the same time, be as beneficial to the Bibby and the Company in point of rent and revenue as a due regard to her rights and those of the islanders (computed to be in number about 6,500) will admit, reserving for the Company a moiety only of the total amount receivable by her in strict conformity with her stipulations.

53. We have received a representation that the Rajah of Travencore has been very remiss in compleating his pepper contract. We trust, however, that the representations which we have made to him will have the proper effect, particularly if the failure, as has been represented to us, should have arisen

time, we recommended his constant recurrence [reference] to the principles pointed out by us in the general instructions of the 27th of March, 1794, that in the administration of our newly acquired territory conciliation and firmness should be combined, the prejudices and habits of the people be consulted as far as practicable under the regulations, and the military never be employed, except in cases of urgency when other means had failed.

43. We have the satisfaction to inform you that the measures adopted by the Supravisor have been attended with great success, and that a settlement of the revenues for the Northern as well as the Southern Division has been concluded for five years, and received our confirmation. It was our intention to have limited the duration of the settlement in the northern districts to a period of one year only, in consequence of the opposition of the Rajahs to the attainment of the necessary information through the *Canongoes*; but as they have since agreed to conform to the regulations established for the province at large, we have thought it proper to place them on the same footing with the southern Rajahs.

44. We also had it in contemplation to grant an extension of the settlement for the whole of the province to a longer period than five years, under a condition of its being punctually fulfilled by the Rajas; but, on consideration, we have concurred with the Government of Bombay in thinking this measure could not be expedient, both as we may hope to possess more accurate information of the assets of the different districts at the end of five years, and as it is possible a more permanent settlement might interfere with the introduction of an improved system of administration at the end of that period.

45. We are sorry that the want of the requisite accounts prevents our submitting to your Honorable Court a comparison of the *jumma* now settled with that estimated by the late Commissioners, though we hope that this defect will be supplied by your advices from Bombay. Our letter of the 24th of December stating the deficient collections of the past year will have prepared you to expect some reduction of the estimate of the Commissioners; but we hope that, after deducting the allowances to the Rajahs which are not included in the nett [new?] settlement now formed with them, the difference will not be considerable, and this will be partly recovered by the *rissud* or annual increase.

46. An opposition to the judicial authority by a *Nair* of Cartinaad who gave protection to persons summoned by the Northern Superintendent in the small fort of Baragara induced the Supravisor to resume this small fortress, and deliver it over to the Commanding Officer of the Company's troops; and we approved the measure, as well from the necessity of it, under the circumstances stated, as because the Rajah of Cartinaad could have no just ground to object, the fort in question having been taken by our troops from Tippoo.

47. In answer to a proposition for a general resumption of the small forts, fortified *pagodas* and other strongholds possessed by the northern Rajahs, we have thought it proper to direct a previous reference to us in each instance, except in cases of actual resistance.

48. Our correspondence with Bombay will inform your Honorable Court

Upper Provinces.

58. Your Honorable Court will observe from Major Palmer's letters the present state of the Mahratta politicks in Hindostan, and his sentiments that there is no probability, from any cause, of interruption to the existing tranquillity between the Mahrattas and the Company's and the Vizier's Governments.

59. Major Palmer having reason to imagine that he should have an application from Dowlut Row Sindea to meet him at Oogcin on his way from Poonah, we have authorized his compliance with it if it should be made.

60. In the 36th and succeeding paragraphs of our letter by the *Royal Admiral*, we informed you of the spontaneous assurances made by His Excellency the Nabob Vizier to your Resident at his Court that it was His Excellency's intention to apply himself to the adjustment of the affairs of his Government to discharge the heavy debts which had accumulated, and to secure the regular payments of the subsidy to the Company.

61. Your Honourable Court will observe, upon perusing the accompanying copies of the Resident's dispatches to the latest date, that the Vizier has repeated his assurances, and has afforded some indications of a resolution to carry them into immediate execution.

62. We are too sensible not only of the importance but of the absolute necessity of the measure not to promote it by every suggestion in our power; and both the Resident and the Vizier have been furnished so fully with our sentiments for their guidance that nothing remains but to commence the plan of reform without further delay.

63. The Resident at Lucknow having communicated to us some information leading to a suspicion of the designs of the Seicks against the Vizier's country, the necessary orders were sent in consequence to the upper stations to prepare against any possible attempts on the part of the Seicks, although they appeared to us very improbable, an opinion which has since been confirmed.

64. The 46th and subsequent paragraphs of our dispatch dated the 12th of May will have informed you of the conduct of Messrs. T. M. Arnott and J. H. Bellassis, and of the steps we have taken to have them delivered up by Ally Behauder, into whose service they had entered.

65. We have now to acquaint you that, in consequence of the application which we directed Sir Charles Malet to make to the Court of Poonah for instructions to Ally Behauder to surrender the persons of Messrs. Arnott and Bellassis, the Peshwah issued an order to that effect. It would seem that Mr. Arnott, learning that Ally Bahauder had received these orders, preferred returning to Lucknow and surrendering himself to the Resident here, who, on his appearance at that place on the 19th ultimo, apprehended him; and he is now, pursuant to our instructions to the Resident, proceeding to Calcutta under a guard.

pursuance of orders from the King, proceeded on his journey to Ava on the 30th of May, accompanied by the Second Officer of Government at Pegue, and had arrived at a place called Prom on the 1st of July expecting to reach the capital on the 3d of the same month. Captain Symes had also been joined by the Chief Minister, who had left Pegue before him to avail himself of a lucky day for the commencement of the journey. We are happy to be able to add that the moderation, firmness and judgment of Captain Symes had overcome some obstacles arising from the misconception and jealousy of the representatives of the Burmah Government at Rangoon and that there was every appearance, at the date of his last letters, of a favourable issue to the objects of his deputation.

Military arrangements.

72. We think it necessary to acquaint your Honourable Court that, after a minute and deliberate discussion of our internal situation, comprehending the numbers, local disposition, and discipline of the army, we resolved to withdraw the detachments of regular troops employed on the internal duties of detail, and to substitute for them, as well as for the armed peons and *berkendosses*, a *sebundy* corps for the duties of the Revenue, Judicial, Commercial, and Salt Departments; to establish a Marine Corps for the services of the Andamans, Prince of Wales Island, and Bencoolen, and the river duties; to raise a battalion from among the inhabitants of Raneghur¹¹ for the duties of that district; and a corps of native militia for the general duties (with some exceptions) of the town of Calcutta.

73. The reasons for these measures are very amply detailed in the minutes of the Governor General and the Commander in Chief, including also the measure of laying in depôts of provisions in Fort William and at other places within and without the provinces; and we have desired that copies of them may be sent numbers in the packet with a copy of the minute and resolutions which we recorded on this important subject.

74. We solicit, very earnestly, your particular attention to these papers, for we are aware that it is indispensibly necessary as well to impress you, in the strongest manner, with the state of the military establishments in these provinces and in those of our ally the Nabob Vizier, the means of defence which the countries possess against invasion and their future security, as well as to convince you that we have not authorized the measures we have adopted without an assurance of their indispensable necessity.

75. We should neglect our public duty if we omitted to inform your Honourable Court that the European troops, both in His Majesty's and the Company's service in all India, cannot furnish an effective force exceeding nine thousand rank and file, after a moderate deduction for the sick and lame; that the expeditions to Ceylon and Malacca will diminish this number by about sixteen hundred; and that at this Presidency, the establishment of officers in the Company's service is incomplete by one hundred, at Madras by about eighty, and at Bombay by about fifty.

66. We have directed our Secretary to acquaint him, upon his arrival at the Presidency, that the escort over him will be discontinued, and he will be permitted to remain at large on his transmitting to the Company's Attorney sufficient security engaging, by himself and two responsible persons, under a penalty of five thousand pounds, that he will proceed to Europe by one of the first ships dispatched from this country at the end of the present or commencement of the ensuing year.

67. It is reported, but we have not yet received any certain account, that Mr. Bellassis accompanied Mr. Arnott as far as Cawnpore, since which time we have not heard any intelligence concerning him.

68. An application having been made by Teje Sing^a, Rajah of Jeatpore Culphar in Bundlécund, to Colonel Forbes, commanding at Cawnpore, desiring protection from the Company, and offering his country to them, if they chose to accept of it on the terms of expelling Ally Bahauder, who had taken possession of the greater part of it from Jeatpore Culphar, we requested the Commander in Chief to inform Colonel Forbes that no attention was to be paid to this application; that with respect to the protection solicited by the Rajah, he should be civilly informed that it could not be granted, and that if in the expectation of receiving it he should visit Cawnpore, it should be recommended to him to withdraw from thence without delay.

Burmas.

69. In the 53rd paragraph^o of our letter by the *Royal Admiral*, we had the honor of acquainting you that the fugitives from Aracan had been delivered up by our orders to the Rajah of Chedubah and other officers appointed to receive them. Subsequent to the surrender of these persons, the Rajah of Chedubah applied to Lieutenant Colonel Erskine for some guns and boats which had been carried off by the prisoners from Arracan, and such of them as could be found and were in a state to be delivered back have been returned accordingly.

70. A similar application having been made on the part of the Ava Government for the surrender of the wives and families of the prisoners, Lieutenant Colonel Erskine, with our concurrence, refused to comply with it, as there was reason to fear that the motive of the requisition was to have an opportunity of putting them to death in compliance with a cruel law in their country which involves in one common guilt and punishment every member of a criminal's family.

71. In the 54th¹⁰ paragraph of the letter already referred to, we informed you that Captain Symes, whom we had deputed to the Court of Ava, was on the eve of his departure from Rangoon to the residence of the Rajah of Pegu at the antient city of that name. By subsequent advices, copies of which we transmit numbers in the packet, we learn that Captain Symes, after having been received with much attention and treated with kindness by the Rajah, had, in

doubt your approval of what we have suggested to the Government of Fort St. George on this occasion; and we hope the more recent communications you will receive from them by this dispatch will inform you of the result.

Bombay and its dependencies.

3. In continuation of the 41st and succeeding paragraphs of our last address respecting Malabar, we have the honor to forward copies of a letter and comparative statement since received from the
 Consn. 4 September, 25 do. Supravisor, with a copy of our letter to the Bombay Government in reply.

4. By the latter, you will observe that we have required a further comparison of the *jumma*, now settled for five years, with the revenue estimated by the late Commissioners, after the Supravisor shall have had an opportunity of consulting Mr. Duncan at Calicut; and that for the full information of your Honorable Court, we have desired to receive a statement exhibiting the annual revenue according to the settlement now formed in each of the five years for which it has been concluded, with an estimate of the mint duties and customs during the same period.

5. In the accompanying copies of our correspondence with Bombay relative to Malabar, you will observe the result of the further enquiry, noticed in the 48th paragraph of our last address, respecting the ceremony of the coronation of the Calastry Rajah, to which the Northern Superintendent was very improperly summoned by the Rajah of Cherical. The celebration of this festival appearing inconsistent with the present situation of the Rajah, or, at all events, not proper to be renewed by him without the consent of the Bombay Government as the representative of the present sovereign power, we approved the Supravisor's having discouraged it.

6. The above correspondence also contains the particulars of a criminal act ascribed to the younger Rajah of Coliote [Cotiote], who is charged with the illegal execution of three *Mapillas*. We have desired that no punishment be inflicted on him without a reference to us, but he will of course be called to account; and we have repeated a former remark that we consider it a point of the first consequence to convince the Rajahs and principal landholders of Malabar that they are equally amenable with every other description of persons to the regular course of the laws, and to the courts established for the execution of them, whose authority must be maintained to the full extent prescribed by the regulations.

7. In addition to the papers referred to in the 54th paragraph of our last address from this Department, detailing the measures adopted for carrying on the inquiry ordered by your Honorable Court into the charges preferred by the Bibby of Cananore against General Macleod, we have now the honor to transmit copies of our further correspondence with Bombay in this head; and, in particular, beg your attention to our letter of the annexed date, conveying to the
 Consn. 4 September. Government at Bombay our sentiments at large on the mode of investigation which we conceived should be adopted in pursuance of
 Consn. 11 September.

Miscellanea.

76. We transmit, a number in the packet, a copy [of] a letter from
 Consn. 13th July, Mr. Hunter, Surgeon to the Residency with Sindia, con-
 No. 23. taining an offer of a survey made by him of the route
 which he had travelled, when he accompanied Major
 Palmer in his late journey to Delhi, and in his return from thence. We have
 only to add that, from the favorable opinion of this gentleman's abilities which
 we had, on a similar occasion, an opportunity of forming,
 Consn. 27th July, we have reason to believe that the survey now produced
 No. 15. by him will be a valuable addition to the geographical
 knowledge already obtained of the countries through which the route in
 question lies.

Fort William,
 the 18th of August, 1795.

We have the honor to be,
&c., *&c.*

(*Per Mary.*)

42.

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 31 OCTOBER 1795

Death of Nawab Muhammiad Ali of Arcot—Proposals for an intimate alliance with the Raja of Travancore—The Nizam: progress of Prince Ali Jah's rebellion; the Nizam's request for a loan of 1½ crores refused—Tipu's intrigues to break up the Triple Alliance, and the Nizam's eagerness to shake off Maratha control—Hopes of reform in Oudh—Cordial reception to Capt. Symes at Amarapura.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs.,

1. We had last the honor of addressing you by the *Mary* packet under date the 18th August, and with a copy of that address now forward to you a continuation of our proceedings in the Political Department by the *Surprise*.

Fort St. George.

2. The only material occurrence in our late correspondence with Fort St. George in this Department (except what will be mentioned under the head of Nabob Nizam Ally Khan) is the death of His Highness the Nabob of Arcot. This event, which took place on the 13th instant, was communicated to us in a letter from the Secretary of Fort St. George of that date, a copy of which, and our letter in answer, will be transmitted for your information. We cannot



Jonathan Duncan

your Honorable Court's instructions on a subject which from its nature and importance had naturally engaged your particular notice.

8. Although the orders of your Honorable Court for this enquiry were addressed to the Governor in Council of Bombay, the communication of them to us, and the general responsibility vested in us, made it necessary that we should point out specifically what appeared to us the proper measures to be adopted for carrying your instructions into full effect, as well in regard to the individuals concerned as the Company. But, having performed our duty in this respect, and the immediate execution of your orders appertaining properly to the Governor in Council of Bombay, we advised him that it was not our intention to interfere further; that his proceedings and report would, of course, be transmitted to your Honorable Court in compliance with your instructions; and that we doubted not they would be found to contain that full and explicit information which your orders and the circumstances of the case so particularly required.

9. You will probably have received from the Government of Bombay an account of the disturbance which took place in the city of Surat on the 19th August last, but we think it proper to transmit you
 Consn. 18 September. copies of their letters to us upon the subject. We have not yet seen the report of the committee appointed to enquire into the cause and circumstances of this outrage; but it appears to have originated in a religious dispute between the Musulman and Hindoo inhabitants, and we were happy to find the measures taken by the Chief and Council, in concert with the Nabob, had been successful in restoring tranquility.

10. In the 49th paragraph of our Political Letter of the 17th January, 1794, we advised your Honorable Court of proposals having been received from the Rajah of Travancore for a more intimate communication and alliance with the Company, but that we had not then formed any resolutions upon them.

11. The variety of occupations which have since engrossed our attention, and the little urgency for any immediate decision upon this subject, have since prevented our resuming the consideration of the Rajah's propositions and communicating to you our sentiments on them as we intended; but the departure of Mr. Duncan to enter upon the Government of Bombay suggesting the most eligible opportunity for a negociation with the Rajah of Travancore, we resolved to avail ourselves of it, and have accordingly
 Consn. 25 September. furnished him with the commission and instructions, of which you will receive copies by this dispatch, together with a copy of the Governor General's minute which led to them, the sentiments and propositions contained in it having received our full concurrence.

12. These papers will communicate to you the proposals of the Rajah of Travancore, our conception of the connection hitherto
 Governor General's minute. subsisting between him and the Company, the objects
 Instructions to Mr. Duncan. of the negociation we have authorized with him, and the
 Commission to do. mode and forms in which we have directed it to be
 Letter to Govern- carried on, so much more satisfactorily than any exposi-
 ment of Fort St. tion of them we could offer in this place that we beg
 George. leave to refer to them as noticed in the margin, and shall only remark here

that we have taken every precaution to adhere strictly to the terms of the statute, and that it is our wish, as it appears to be that of the Rajah, to proceed no further than to form the basis of a future treaty to be concluded with the express approbation and authority of your Honorable Court.

13. Mr. Duncan having proceeded on this commission at our request, we thought it proper to desire he would draw on us for the amount of his expences during its continuance; and we further take this occasion to submit to your Honorable Court whether he should be permitted to draw the salary of Governor of Bombay from the date on which he received the notification of your appointment of him to that station, or from such other period as you may judge proper.

The Nabob Nizam Ally Khan, the Marhattas, and Tippoo Sultaun.

14. We should have been happy in communicating to you the entire suppression of the insurrection in the Nizam's dominions, noticed in our last address, and a reconciliation between him and his son. But at the period of our latest advices from Hydrabad, although the insurgents had evacuated Bider, to secure the reduction of which place the Nizam had found it necessary to desire the assistance of our detachment, which arrived at Hydrabad on the 31 August, neither the Prince nor his principal supporter Shudda Sheo Reddy¹ had made such submissions as His Highness thought it proper to accept.

15. In compliance with the Nizam's requisition, Major Roberts marched towards Bider on the 23rd September; and the instructions furnished to him by the Resident for his conduct on this service are included in the accompanying copies of our correspondence with the latter. You will observe from them that our troops were to act under the general direction of Meer Allum, who accompanied them, but were not to be joined in any service with the corps commanded by Monsieur Raymond, nor against the Marhattas, in the event of their espousing the cause of Alli Jah, though of this there seemed no probability. On the contrary, His Highness has received very strong assurances from the Court of Poona of its readiness to assist him in bringing the troubles in which he is involved to a happy termination; and, in proof of his sincerity, the Paishwa is said to have sent a body of ten thousand horse towards Bider, though the real destination of these appeared doubtful; and the Resident supposes they are intended less to strengthen either side than to enable the Marhattas to interpose between the Prince and his father with a decisive effect.

16. The Prince, after quitting Bider, had proceeded to Turkul on the road to Nemdair [Nandair?] where it was supposed he would wait the result of proposals he had transmitted to his father demanding a *jagheer* of 12 lacks of rupees for himself and the re-establishment of Suddasheo Ruddy in his former possessions. These proposals the Nizam shewed no inclination to comply with; and the only hope of a favorable accommodation seems to rest in the mediation of Meer Allum, whose character and disposition may be expected to facilitate so desirable an end and to promote it. Your Resident, agreeably to our instructions, has urged to His Highness the various considerations which render it advisable for him to re-establish the tranquility of his dominions with as little delay as possible.

nature and objects of his mission have naturally excited the attention of your Resident; and he has required more explicit information on the subject than has yet been received.

24. The systematic jealousy of the Marhattas may also, we apprehend, be awakened by the arrival of an agent from Tippoo Sultaun without any ostensible motive; and the caution observed respecting him is a warrantable ground for their suspicion.

25. We cannot therefore but regret the apparent weakness of the Nizam's conduct in this instance, which may tend to increase his present embarrassments by augmenting the difficulties in which he is involved with the Poonah Court.

26. At the same time, we have no reason to impute to the Nizam any hostile intentions, or any serious desire of an alliance with Tippoo Sultaun, who has heretofore treated him with marked disrespect, and who, for some time past, has kept up a more than usual intercourse with the Court of Poonah, though apparently of a complimentary nature only.

27. On the whole, the conclusions we draw from all the communications we have received are these: that the object which the Nizam has most immediately in view is to obtain a release from his engagements with the Paishwa; that for this purpose he is most anxious to obtain the assistance and support of this Government, with some faint hopes of their being granted, carrying on at the same time a negociation with Tippoo Sultaun without any determinate object at present, but on the chance of deriving some advantage from it.

28. A declaration ascribed to Tippoo that he is willing to join the Nizam on condition that he will renounce his connection with us may possibly be a suggestion thrown out in the hope that it will engage us in the Nizam's scheme; or, if well founded, it may be considered an attempt on the part of the Sultaun to dissolve a confederacy which imposes a bar to his ambitious projects. Under these conjectures we can only watch the progress of the intercourse and the conduct of the Nizam; and we have instructed the Resident accordingly.

29. You will observe from the copies of intelligence from Mysore that various plans of operation are ascribed in them to Tippoo Sultaun, and among other negociations with the Marhattas, an agreement to pay them a subsidy for a body of horse as well as to cede to them the district of Goory. This intelligence by no means corresponds with the supposition of any alliance with the Nizam against the Marhattas, intended by the mission of Sucaram Pundit; and little reliance is to be placed on information obtained through the natives usually employed as spies. We have however thought it proper to notice it to your Residents at Poonah and Hyderabad as deserving attention and investigation, in common with all other communications or reports of a similar nature.

30. A further piece of intelligence was forwarded to us by the Assistant at Poonah in the absence of the Resident from indisposition, and is included in the accompanying copies of our correspondence with him. It purported no less than the plan of a confederacy between Tippoo and the Marhattas for a general attack upon the Company's possessions when a favourable opportunity might offer.

17. Among these, one of the stroughest is his encreasing embarrassment from the near approach of the period for his making good a crore and a half of rupees to the Marhattas in discharge of his stipulations at Khurdlah. He has not hesitated to state his distress in this respect, in the most explicit terms, to your Resident, through Meer Allum, who even proposed a loan from the Company for His Highness's relief to the amount of a crore of rupees.

18. The Resident, pressed to communicate this application to us, has done so in compliance with the Nizam's desire, but at the same time gave him no encouragement to expect that it could possibly be complied with. In reply, we have approved the answer returned by the Resident to Meer Allum, stating the impracticability of our affording the pecuniary assistance desired, as well as a similar answer to a further application for troops to quell disturbances on the borders of His Highness's dominions: and have recommended to him, as a general rule, in replying to questions of this nature, to state the various considerations which they suggest, leaving it to His Highness to weigh them and deduce his own conclusions.

19. We before advised you of the application made by the Nizam for an additional detachment to be employed in Kurpah, and of the instructions we had transmitted to the Government of Fort St. George on this head, leaving the final decision upon it to their discretion.

20. Lord Hobart's letter to the Governor General in answer to this reference will be found among the accompanying copies of our Hyderabad correspondence, together with the Governor General's reply, in which we fully concurred; and it being determined not to send the detachment in question, the Resident was instructed to explain this resolution to the Nizam in terms calculated to reconcile him to the disappointment, with our regret that the various services for which the forces of the Madras Presidency were required and the difficulty of soon replacing them by detachments from Bengal compelled us to withhold that assistance which we anxiously wished to have afforded them.

21. On the policy of granting the Nizam such assistance in the actual circumstances of his situation and for the removal of his French troops from our frontiers, we shall add nothing to what we have already stated to your Honorable Court on this subject: but as Lord Hobart, in his correspondence with the Resident at Hyderabad, has expressed a particular desire to bring it under your notice, we beg leave to point out his letters to your attention as well as those of the Resident to which they refer.

22. The only further circumstance which we think it necessary to notice in the communications from your Resident at Hyderabad is the arrival there of a person name Succaram Pundit, said to be a *Vakeel* of Tippoo Sultaun, under whose seal he has produced an envelope containing a letter in the Marhatta language, addressed to Siam Ranj, the *Roy Royan*², and with a reference to Succaram Pundit for particulars, expressing a desire to cultivate by epistolary intercourse the friendship subsisting between his State and that of His Highness the Nizam.

23. The private manner in which this person was introduced to the Nizam by the *Roy Royan* and the general concealment observed with respect to the

Owde &c., Upper Stations.

37. Among the objects detailed in the minute and resolutions referred to in the 73rd paragraph of our last address from this Department, one was to prevail on the Nabob Vizier to put the Company in possession of the Fort of Allahabad as a means of providing more effectually both for his and their security from invasion.

38. By the copy of a letter from the Resident at Lucknow dated the 21st July, and transmitted with the above, you will however have observed that it appeared to him unadvisable to prosecute this measure in the present state of the Vizier's affairs; and on consideration of the objections stated by him, we concurred in opinion that it should for the present be suspended. At the same time we desired he would consider the possession of Allahabad as an object to be kept in view, for the attainment of which he should avail himself of any favourable circumstances; and directed him to urge to the Vizier in the strongest terms our recommendation for repairing the fort, so as not only to make it tenable against a sudden attack, but capable of standing a siege, in which we wished him to avail himself of the advice of our Chief Engineer, on his way to the Upper Provinces. We also added that it should have a complete garrison with a commander of approved fidelity.

39. It is unnecessary to detail our correspondence with the Resident at Lucknow respecting the reform of the Nabob's administration. You have been already fully advised of our frequent recommendations to him on this head, and will be happy to see by the letters now transmitted to you that he has actually commenced the adoption of them with all the success that could be expected. From the apparently serious disposition he has lately shewn to remove his present embarrassments and guard against the recurrence of them in future, as well as from the personal part he has taken in the conduct of his affairs, added to the confidence he has expressed in the Resident and his desire to have the latter's advice and assistance, we are willing to hope that His Excellency is at length convinced of the expediency and necessity of adopting an arrangement calculated to remove the abuses which mismanagements had introduced into every part of his internal government, as well as into his domestic economy.

40. At the same time we are well aware that many difficulties must impede the progress of reform in Owde, and that they are to be surmounted only by steady perseverance, which the past conduct and habits of His Excellency afford too little reason to expect from him. In increase of this expectation, we rely on the zealous efforts of the Resident to encourage him to proceed; and it is to be hoped that the ease and advantage which he will himself perceive in being relieved from his present embarrassments will incite in him new motives of exertion.

41. We shall only add that at the request of the Vizier we have authorized the Resident to assist him in ascertaining his true and just debts with a view to their being put into a train of payment, and that the Governor General has also assented to give his sentiments on the adjustment of them if necessary, taking precautions, at the same time, to prevent any implication of the Company's responsibility in consequence of such interference.

31. The improbability of such a scheme, and the inadequate motives assigned for it, namely, our supposed intention to support the Nizami and the purchase of horses for our cavalry, added to the uncertain credibility of the person by whom this intelligence was communicated, would not allow us to imagine it could be well-founded; and from the Acting Resident's subsequent letters it appears to have been entirely without foundation.

32. The recent dismissal of Dowlut Row Sindia and the other chieftains of the Marhatta Empire, assembled during the late hostilities with the Nizam and till lately detained at Poonah, seems to evince that whatever may be the future designs of the Poonah Court, it can at least harbour no immediate intention of breaking the alliance subsisting between them and the British Government, no less for their security than our own.

33. We cannot indeed rely on a continuance of their friendship, nor perhaps on their forbearance, beyond the period when their restless ambition may prompt them to pursue a different line of conduct towards us; but whilst on the one hand they can consider their connection with us of advantage to them, which they must do whilst their newly acquired dominions in Hindostan remain in their present unsettled state, and whilst we also give them no just reason to apprehend that we have ourselves any views repugnant to that system of moderation and good faith which the provisions of the Legislature and your instructions concur with our own inclinations to make the basis of all our proceedings, we may reasonably hope that nothing will occur to interrupt our present tranquility on the part of the Marhattas.

34. We cannot for obvious reasons rely with the same confidence on the pacific disposition and conduct of Tippoo Sultaun. The arrival in India of any considerable French force, or the co-operation of any ally whose assistance could afford a plausible expectation of redeeming his loss of power and territory from the late war, would probably induce him to make the attempt. But as we see no immediate prospect of either of these circumstances taking place, so we trust there is no present danger of the supposed eventual consequence.

35. Considerable cessions both of money and territory are said to have been made by Dowlut Row Sindia to the Paishwa for the purpose of obtaining his leave of departure from Poonah to return to Hindostan. The Acting Resident has stated the particulars of these cessions as far as they have been communicated to him; and we hope to receive from him more accurate information of their extent, as well as of the particular districts which have been ceded.

36. The death of Aleabyhe [Ahalya Bai], the female head of the Holkar family, and the dispatch of a party to receive the jewels for the Paishwa which have been so long waiting at Benares are the only further circumstances which we think it necessary to notice in our correspondence with the Resident at Poonah. No important consequence is expected from the demise of Allen Bhye; but, for the particulars of the Holkar family, and the effects it is likely to produce amongst them, we beg to refer to a letter from Major Palmer sent accompanying. We also request your attention to another letter from him communicating the recent conquests and probable views of the Marhattas in Hindostan.

POLITICAL LETTER DATED 15 DECEMBER 1795

Choice of a successor to the office of the Peshwa—Death of Prince Ali Jah.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We had last the honor to addressing you from this Department by the *Surprize* under date the 31st October, and shall transmit you a continuation of our proceedings by the first fleet of Indiamen.

2. In the meantime we avail ourselves of the opportunity offered by the dispatch of a grain ship (the *Nonsuch*) to forward a duplicate of our letters of the above date, together with copies of the latest accounts received from the Resident at Poonah, advising us that, after considerable delay in the choice of a successor to the late Peishwa, it has at length been decided in favor of a son to be adopted by the widow of Narain Row to the exclusion of the sons of Roganaut Row, and that the administration of publick affairs is to be vested in the Minister, Nana Furnaveese.

3. We also transmit copy of a recent letter from the Resident at Hyderabad advising us of the death of the Prince Ali Jah on the 22d ultimo at Khair after having surrendered himself a few days before at Aurungabad to Meer Allum on an assurance of security to his life and honor.

Fort William.
15th December, 1795.

We have the honor to be &c.

(*Per Nonsuch.*)

Deputation to Ava.

42. Captain Symes, of whose deputation to the Court of Ava and proceedings to the 17th July you have been already advised, arrived at Animara-poorah^s, the present capital of the Burman Empire, on the 18th of that month. The accompanying copies of letters from him to the 15th August shew that he has received every mark of attention and respect, both during his journey and since his arrival at the capital; and though established forms and superstitious observances had delayed his interview with the King, the removal of all distrust and increased cordiality towards him, since the communication of the Governor General's letter and a memorial stating explicitly the objects of his mission, gave him reason to expect the fullest success in establishing the basis of a commercial intercourse on grounds of equity and advantage to both nations:

43. We further beg your attention to Captain Symes's letter of 15th May from Rangoon, as containing a variety of useful information on the state of that port and the other harbours of Pegu, as well as on the soil, climate, productions and commerce of the Pegu dominions in general.

44. It appears by a letter from Captain Thomas, Commander of the Company's brig *Sea Horse*, of which a copy will also be forwarded to you, that two small vessels, fitted out at Rangoon and laden with provisions for Mauritius, were prevented from sailing in consequence of an order from the King of Ava to give no pass or permission to any vessel to carry the Bhurman flag, unless she were the sole property of, and commanded by, His Majesty's subjects. We are willing to hope that this order may have proceeded from the friendly disposition of the Ava Government, promoted by the present deputation, towards the English nation, of whose hostility with the French, they must be well informed.

Miscellanea.

45. We advised you, in our last address, of an offer made by Mr. Hunter, Surgeon to the Residency with Sindia, of a survey of his late route to and from Delhy in company with Major Palmer. We have
 Consn. 7th Septem- now the honor to transmit a copy of the Surveyor
 ber. General's report on the utility and value of this survey, and to add that we, in consequence, fixed the compensation to Mr. Hunter at the sum mentioned by him, four thousand rupees.

46. Since writing the above we have been honored with your Political Letter of the 5th June, 1795, by the *Earl of Oxford*, which being in answer to former letters from hence requires no other reply than that we shall be careful to observe the instructions contained in it.

Fort William,
31st October, 1795.

We have the honor to be &c.

(Per Surprise.)

(5) Approves of our instructions to Bombay on the negotiation that had been opened by Hyat Saib with Nizam Ally Khan^a.

4. Do not require any answer.

(6) Negotiation with the Court of Poonah in respect to Gingerah. Think it will be more for Ballow Meah's interest to relinquish his claims for a certain adequate provision.

5. The subject of this paragraph has been taken up in our addresses from the Political Department.

(7) Should the mediation of the Court of Poonah fail of procuring indemnification for the piracies of the Malwa Rajah, you approve of our determination to make reprisals.

(8) Upon the intention once entertained by the Court of Poonah to send ambassadors to England.

(9) Refers to paragraph not requiring any reply.

6. No answer necessary.

(10) Our letters of the 13th of February and 12th of April, 1790 are fully replied to in the Political Department.

(11) Our letter of the 20th of November, 1790, in the Secret Department does not require any answer.

(12) Refers to our letters, dated the 31st of July and the 17th of November, 1790, in the Foreign Department. Are informed that instructions upon the subject, *vizt.*, the disturbances in the French settlements in India, will be conveyed to us by the Secretary of State.

7. We shall transmit to you in the packet under dispatch a copy of a letter dated the 14th of October which was received by our Secretary from the Private Secretary of the Governor General and of an extract to which it refers of a letter dated the 12th of May, 1791, from Lord Grenville, one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, to Earl Cornwallis upon the subject of the disturbances at the French settlements in this country.

(13, 14, 15, 16) Present state of the Nabob of Arcot and Raja of Tanjore in consequence of the interference we have been obliged to assume in their affairs for the effectual collection and due administration of their revenues.

8. The instructions given by the Secret Committee upon the subject considered in these paragraphs will be duly attended to at the proper season. A copy of them has been sent to Earl of Cornwallis the 13th of May, 1791.

SECRET LETTER DATED 27 APRIL 1792

Disposal of the family jewels of Raghoba—Disturbances in the French settlements—Enquiry into certain complaints regarding illicit trade carried on by British subjects under passes of foreign nations : British commanders of the Henrietta and L'Etrusco fined ; escape of Il Netuno.

TO the Secret Committee of the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your commands dated the 9th of March and 13 of April, 1791, by the *Northumberland*, and the 6 and 13 of May by the *Asia*.

Answer to your letter dated the 13 of April, 1791.

2. On the arrival of the *Bridge Water*, a box, which we suppose to be that alluded to in this letter as containing the jewels that belonged to the deceased Ragoba¹, was delivered to us, and placed in deposit in the treasury, where we propose it should remain until we have received Lord Cornwallis's answer to a reference we have made to him on the subject of your instruction which directs, as the jewels are understood to be family jewels, that we should take a proper opportunity of presenting them to the Peshwa in the name of the Company as a mark of their attachment unless any circumstances may have occurred to suggest the propriety of suspending the execution of this order.

3. Mr. Prager being at the Presidency we desired him to examine and value the jewels. He did so and delivered in an estimate by which the worth of them is stated to amount to a total of *Sa.[Sicca]* Rs. 1,11,260. A copy of the estimate is enclosed.

Answer to your letter dated the 6th of May, 1791.

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Acknowledge the receipt of letters. | } |
| (2) Letters now replied to. | |
| (3) Refers to a paragraph not requiring any answer. | |
| (4) Refers to the letters from the Court of Directors in the Political Department. | |

No. 2. The ship *Crown Princess Maria*, J. Christmas—Master, arrived here under Danish colours on the 5th of September from Copenhagen. She left this port on the second of November to proceed to Tellicherry, and it is expected to return to Bengal. We do not understand that she stopped or landed any stores between the Cape of Good Hope and this country, nor do we observe from her manifest that there were military stores of any description landed from the ship at this port.

No. 3. The ship *Minerva*, Captain—Greenway, sailed from Ostend on the 23d January, and touched at Madeira on her passage to Madras where she arrived the 30th May last, and immediately proceeded to this port without landing any part of her cargo. Upon inspecting the manifest, we did not perceive that military stores formed any part of her cargo. She went to Vizagapatam on the 19th September and returned on the 1st of December. We understand that she is gone back to Europe.

No. 4. The ship *Princess Frederica*, Captain—Barclay, left Copenhagen on the 8th of October, 1790, and arrived here the latter end of August last. She touched at Madras on her passage hither and landed there near 1,500 bars of iron and a few articles of liquor &c. No mention is made in her manifest of military stores imported at this Presidency.

The French ships *L'Amphéin* and the *L'Aurore* have never arrived at this port.

13. We had just passed an order for making public, according to the instructions of the Company in their General Letter of the 4th of August, 1791, the minute and resolution of the Honorable Court of Directors, dated in the month of June preceding, relative to illicit trade carried on between Europe and India by British subjects under the false colours and passes of foreign nations when Mr. Cutbert Fenwick, upon the grounds of a similar publication in the *Courier* of Madras, where the resolutions had arrived before they could reach this Presidency, laid some informations before us in a letter enclosed under a cover which was superscribed with the word secret. This letter being one of many that were addressed to us by Mr. Fenwick on the subject of the illicit trade, we shall arrange what had passed upon it in divisions relative to the several ships against which his informations were delivered, giving a short summary of our proceedings with respect to each and referring to our consultations, which will be sent in this dispatch and contain a detailed recital of every particular, for, our narrative would spread and extend to too great a length, were we to enlarge upon each separate charge and the various circumstances brought forward with an intention to support it. The many unwarrantable liberties which he has taken and the slanders he has lavished upon us and our officers in insinuations and direct assertions are for the same reasons now left unnoticed.

14. Although perfectly satisfied that the motives of Mr. Fenwick in making himself the channel of these informations did not in any degree arise from a zeal for the public interests, we yet, without any regard to his private objects and known character, resolved to prosecute the necessary enquiries for

Answer to your letter dated the 13th of May, 1791.

9. This letter was forwarded to us by the Governor General to whom it had been sent, and His Lordship informed us that he had requested the Government of Madras to transmit to the Government of Bombay copies of your instructions and of the information to which they refer, that the necessary orders might be given to the Company's naval officers at that Presidency.

10. But similar instructions from the Secret Committee having been received by the Government at Fort St. George, they had already communicated them to the Governor in Council of Bombay and to the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's squadron.

11. And deeming it necessary to ascertain whether any of the vessels mentioned by the Secret Committee had touched at Madras they directed their Master Attendant to state such information as had come to his knowledge regarding them. We have the honor to transmit to you a copy of it taken from that which we received from Fort St. George.

12. We have now to lay before you such intelligence as we have been able to obtain concerning the ships in question, of the ships mentioned to be at Ostend and Middlebourgh and to be bound to India.

No. 1. The ship *Enterprize*, Babcock—Commander, arrived at this port from Mauritius on the 3d of September.

This ship had left the river on the 1st of November to proceed to the Malabar Coast before our receipt of your commands so that she was entirely out of our reach, even if the evidence of the intention to convey stores to the enemy had been sufficient to authorize any procedure against her. She lately returned to Bengal.

Of the stores specified in the cargo, which the intelligence received by your Honorable Court supposes to be on board this American ship *Enterprize*, we find the following were inserted in the manifest produced at this Presidency.

	Pdrs.	T	C	Q	Lb.
34 Iron Cannon	... 9	26	18	2	21
75 Do.	... 6	45	7	2	15
8 Do.	... 4	2	17	3	14
1 Do.	... 3	...	7	1	18
2 Do.	... 2	...	10	0	9
		76	1	2	10 (<i>sic</i>)
Shot 9 Pdrs.	...	1	10	...	...
Do. 6 "	...	2	10	...	...
	Tons	80	1	2	11

At £8 is.....£640-12-9.

The cannon and shot were declared to be on the owner's account at Boston.

Officers, we thought it proper to record a minute to contradict so unjust an imputation.

18. The further explanations received by Mr. Fenwick between this point of time and the 13th of February were laid before Mr. Burroughs, and we determined to summons on that day and to examine upon oath in our capacity of Magistrates Mr. Fenwick himself and the several persons who from his letters, as we were induced to suppose, had it in their power to give us very explicit information concerning the persons engaged in the illicit trade. Mr. Burroughs and the Company's Attorney were also desired to attend; and as the Board were to be engaged, by previous appointment, to meet upon other business (it being usually set apart for the administration of justice in the *Nizamut Adawlut*), we instructed our Secretary to be present with one of the Sub-Secretaries in an apartment immediately adjoining to the Council Chamber while the Company's Attorney should take the several informations in writing from the parties summonsed and Mr. Burroughs was in attendance to assist in the examinations and to answer any reference that might be made to him while they were going on.

19. The question concerning the "*Il Netuno*" claimed the first attention, not only because Mr. Fenwick's information turned to be most circumstantial with respect to that ship, but because she might be out of reach if what related to others were taken up before that which related to the "*Il Netuno*"; and as it seemed most probable that the examinations relative to the ship in question would be sufficient to employ (as they did to a late hour) the whole of the morning, we agreed to confine the examination on the 13th of February to that one subject only.

20. We must request your particular attention to the depositions that were taken upon oath from Mr. C. Fenwick, Mr. G. Gillet, Mr. E. Shaw, Mr. J. Bentley, Mr. C. K. Bruce, and to the letter from Mr. Burroughs to whom those depositions were immediately referred, and whose opinion was asked whether it appeared that there were or were not sufficient grounds to warrant the seizure of the "*Il Netuno*" if she were still in the river, or, if the ship had left the river, to authorize the Government of this country to desire the Government of Madras, and (if they possessed the power) to send directions to the settlements on the Coast subordinate to that Government to seize and secure the ship "*Il Netuno*" till further orders, if she should touch at any of such settlements.

21. We were advised by Mr. Burroughs, in answer to his reference, that although it clearly appeared by the depositions of Mr. Fenwick and the other persons he had mentioned that he was originally prompted by selfish motives only and not by any zeal for the Company's interests to give the information which his letters to Government contained, and that he had studiously endeavoured to defeat the very object he pretended to have in view by circulating a printed copy of his first letter on the subject and causing it and its contents to be conveyed to those from whom they ought to have been most carefully

the purpose of carrying the orders of the Company into effect. You will observe that we have been careful to consult our first Law Officer upon every subject of information laid before us and been determined by his opinions, and it is a justice which we owe to Mr. Burroughs to declare that he has gone through the various references made to his judgment and opinions, in the course of this tedious inquiry, with a degree of attention and dispatch that have afforded us the greatest satisfaction.

15. Our proceedings upon the subjects of Mr. Fenwick's informations were in the Secret Department, and on that account are transmitted to the Secret Committee of the Honorable Court of Directors, not only because the informations were originally brought forward in a secret form, but because in the course of taking the evidence of individuals upon them a degree of delicacy was necessary to prevent any improper use being made of it and their exposure to those hazards to which it might possibly be liable if their testimony were publicly divulged.

16. The first ship noticed with others in Mr. Fenwick's original information was called the *Il Netuno*. He asserted that she was universally known to be the property of Mr. William Richardson, then on board, and commanded by Mr. Hogan, who married Captain Richardson's daughter, although the nominal commander was a person named Angelo Borgs. This information also mentioned that she was then dropping down the river, a fact which we afterwards found to be true, she having at the time his letter was received already advanced a considerable way.

17. Mr. Fenwick's address to us concerning this ship was received on the 6th of February, and not a moment was lost in communicating it to Mr. Burroughs, then the Standing Council of the Company, and desiring his opinion, as soon as possible, as to the legal steps to be taken in consequence of the information it contained. His opinion was received the next morning, and as soon as our orders could be issued upon it the Company's Attorney was instructed to apply forthwith to Mr. Fenwick to state what evidence he could give, or procure to be given, for the purpose of proving, or tending to prove, the several assertions in his letter with respect to the ships or persons alledged by him to be engaged in illicit trade to or from this country, and directions were given to the Attorney that, when he had obtained a statement of such evidence from Mr. Fenwick, he should lay the same before Mr. Burroughs without the smallest delay for his opinion how far the said assertions of Mr. C. Fenwick could, by such evidence, be legally made out and supported, and whether such evidence would be sufficient to justify further and what measures. A letter from

Consn. 8th February. Mr. Fenwick to our Secretary, and his answer to the Company's Attorney, will be found on our proceedings of the annexed date, and with them the opinion of Mr. Burroughs which induced a further reference to Mr. Fenwick, his reply to the first from the Attorney having been wholly inexplicit; but as in that reply he imputed to our Government loss of time in permitting a ship to escape whilst, to use his own words, we were consulting the Law

26. After the evidence we had had of Mr. Fenwick's desire to publish, or at least not to conceal, the information which he laid before us concerning the *Netuno*, and after the circulation of his printed letter which fell into several hands containing that information, it can be a matter of no doubt that the earliest intelligence was sent from hence to put the commander of the ship on his guard and to elude the effect of our orders concerning her. Proof of this evidently arises from the ship not having touched at Madras according to her first destination.

27. In a paragraph of a letter from Mr. Fenwick, dated the 14th of February, he desired that as soon as all the witnesses had been examined
 Consn. 15th Feb- to the satisfaction of Government his own Council
 ruary. [Counsel], Mr. Robert Leale and Mr. William Richardson, might be furnished with copies of the different testimonies, as he intended to employ them in attending to his interests in any legal process that we might order against the persons concerned in this illicit commerce.

28. We observed that as the informations in question had been taken in order to found such criminal or civil prosecutions as Government hereafter might think proper to institute for the advantage of the Company, not for the private emolument of Mr. Fenwick, his request, preferred for the motives stated in support of it, could not be complied with. We had already taken care that the informations should be recorded in the Secret Department, and we deemed it our duty, both as Magistrates and Members of Government, to prevent the evidence upon which our future legal proceedings might be founded from being divulged to any persons whom we did not ourselves think proper to employ. The declaration of Mr. Bruce already mentioned sufficiently apprized us that Mr. Fenwick ought not be trusted further than was absolutely necessary.

29. He afterwards complained that a copy of the evidence was withheld from him, as he was certain, he said, that many circumstances would occur to him which had escaped attention from the impossibility either that Mr. Burroughs, the Standing Council, or the Attorney of the Company could know the facts as well as he did who had regularly communicated "the whole progress of these illicit traders to Europe since his last arrival from England."

30. He possibly did not recollect that during his examination upon oath on the 13th of February he was repeatedly asked whether he could add to the information before delivered when he declared that he could not, and that although he was in an adjoining room to that in which the examinations were going on, and was called in after the several persons (excepting Mr. Bruce who was last examined) had closed their depositions, he did not once desire to be present during such examinations, or to see the depositions of any one of the persons, nor did he suggest that any advantage could arise, or was likely to arise, to the investigation by his presence, or assistance at it.

31. With respect to the freighters of *Netuno* and ~~other~~ ships we are

concealed*, yet he was of opinion that the enquiry instituted by Government had brought forward strong presumptive evidence to shew that the ship *Il Netuno* is the property of Mr. Michael Hogan, a British subject, and consequently is forfeited by the statutes made for prohibiting [protecting] the Company's exclusive trade to India.

22. The opinion of Mr. Burroughs upon the reference made to him, as stated in the 5th paragraph of this letter, being entirely in the affirmative to the question, the majority of the Board were of opinion that as the *Il Netuno* had left the river orders for the examination and detention of the ship should not only be sent to Madras and Vizagapatam at which port[s] it was in evidence that it was intended she should call, but that the orders should also be forwarded to the other ports on the Coast under a possibility that the ship might touch at those ports likewise. And as we thought that it might be of consequence to transmit to Madras and the other places some specific instructions as to the species of proof upon which the ship should be detained, or admitted to pass, Mr. Burroughs was desired to give his opinion upon this subject. It was done immediately, and the instructions that will be found in our proceedings of the annexed date were sent in duplicate and by express to the Chiefs and Council at Masulipatam, Vizagapatam, and Ganjam, and to the Governor in Council at Fort St. George.

23. We were afterwards acquainted by the Chief and Council at Vizagapatam that the *Il Netuno* had touched there on her passage down the Coast, and had sailed from thence some days previous to the receipt of our letter directing her seizure, but that the necessary instructions had been sent to the Chief at Injeram in case the *Netuno* should put into Coringa. She did touch there, and had sailed from thence four days previous to the receipt of our orders for her detention, bound it was thought to Fort St. George.

24. Our directions to the Chief and Council at Masulipatam were equally ineffectual, but every possible diligence was used at the place in forwarding them to the Government of Madras.

25. The orders sent [to] this Presidency were also of no avail as by a letter from Fort St. George of the 31st March we were apprised of the *Netuno* having passed by that port and touched at Pondicherry, from whence intelligence was received of her having ultimately sailed for Europe. The proceedings of the Government of Fort St. George which are recorded on our consultation of ye date annexed were transmitted to us upon this occasion.

*Note: Extract from Mr. Bruce's deposition:

Mr. Fenwick, in a letter to me on Thursday or Friday last, and in another on Saturday, mentioned information having been given to Government respecting the *Il Netuno*, and that he believed the ship would be stopped in consequence. On Sunday Mr. Fenwick called upon me and told me he wished the matter should be buzzed about that they, meaning I suppose the parties whom he conceived to be interested in the ship or her cargo, might take the alarm and get off. I have seen a copy of this printed pamphlet entitled "Letters on the British Indian Trade" before I saw it yesterday. Mr. Fenwick shewed it me voluntarily but not at my solicitation.

might reflect on the mode of prosecuting, to take depositions upon oath by any of the Members of Government in their capacity of Magistrates which regularly applies to criminal proceedings only.

35. The first ship in the list we have mentioned is the *Henrietta* said to be commanded by Captain Bishop. The result of the inquiries made by the Company's Attorney upon this subject of information will be found with the opinion of Mr. Burroughs in our proceedings of the annexed dates.

Consn. 13th Feb-
ruary.
21st March.

36. The *Henrietta* was in the river only a short time, and then at a considerable distance from Calcutta. Mr. Fenwick did not name the owners of the ship, or appear to understand who they were; and although from circumstances which came under his own knowledge he disclosed facts which evidently proved Mr. Bishop, the commander, to be a British subject, yet the fact alone of his being so could not subject the ship to forfeiture unless she were proved to be his property or the property of some other British subject. Mr. Fenwick, in a subsequent letter, dwelt, with his usual inexplicitness, on the two or three circumstances relative to the cargo of the *Henrietta*, but without throwing in the light of any additional material evidence whatever.

Consn. 15th Feb-
ruary.

37. Against Mr. Bishop, however, sufficient matter was collected to support an action for the recovery of the penalty of £500 given by the statute for acting under a foreign pass in trading to the East Indies, and we therefore resolved that as he had left this port, instructions should be sent to Madras and Bombay to institute a suit against him, should he be found within the jurisdiction of those Governments, to recover the penalty above mentioned. The instructions thus forwarded to the other Presidencies are recorded on our consultations of the 21st of March.

Consn. 21st March.

38. We have only further to observe respecting Mr. Bishop that if he should again appear within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Judicature a prosecution will of course be immediately commenced against him, and that at all events, if he should escape in India, the Company will have it in their power to prosecute him in England where he is equally liable and where we presume there cannot be any difficulty in obtaining the necessary proofs of his being a British subject.

39. The next ship, in the order of our list, is the *L'Etrusco*.

40. In our proceedings of the 13th of February, the Secret Committee will find a detail of the information furnished by Mr. Fenwick against this ship *L'Etrusco*. He asserted that Captain Popham, the brother of Lieutenant Colonel Popham, and of Mr. Stephen Popham, the Company's Solicitor at Madras, came out to India last year with an Europe cargo on board a ship called *L'Etrusco*, which was nominally commanded by one Francisco Coppi, an Italian; that soon after the arrival of this ship Captain Coppe died, and upon her departure to the Malabar Coast, Captain Popham openly assumed the command of her, by which act Mr. Fenwick deemed it evident that both

Consn. 13th Feb-
ruary.

warranted in observing that the assertions of Mr. Fenwick are so wholly contradicted by the declarations of persons of the greatest integrity and credit in this settlement that it was necessary to be extremely cautious in taking any measures founded on his single information.

32. You will see that in his letter of the 5th of February he assures us that he would mention many of the freighters of the *Nettuno* when once he knows that the ship was stopped. In another letter dated the 10th of February, he repeated his promise and said that he would bring forth many strong and astonishing facts relating to the proprietors of the cargo, and in a third of the same date, he expressed himself in the following terms: "If I must in this loose state of the business speak out, the house of Messrs. Fairlie, Reid & Co. are shippers to a large amount. They sent on board 1,000 bales only a few days before she left this." Yet notwithstanding these bold assertions, when he was afterwards applied to on the subject, it turned out that he had either invented the charge against Messrs. Fairlie, Reid & Co., or taken it up unfounded from mere report. He referred to Mr. Bruce, and to Mr. Bruce only, as the person competent to prove the fact, and Mr. Bruce when examined upon oath to the point declared himself totally uninformed upon the subject, and Messrs. Fairlie, Reid & Co. positively denied the charge asserting it to be an infamous falsehood.

33. As soon as we had issued the orders that we have mentioned relative to the *Il Netuno*, we took up without loss of time the intelligence which had then been received from Mr. Fenwick in respect to other ships under foreign colours, vizt., the *Henrietta*, the *L'Etrusco* and the *Il Gentile*; and we consulted Mr. Burroughs, who was present at the Board³, upon the evidence Mr. Fenwick had specified in respect to the property in those ships or their cargoes, and the mode of proceeding which it would be advisable for Government to adopt to give effect to the existing laws and the orders of the Company as far as they regarded the property in such ships or cargoes navigated by or belonging to British subjects.

34. Mr. Burroughs, upon this occasion, referred to his written opinion, dated the 10th of February, in respect to those ships, and upon adverting to it, we agreed that the most eligible mode of proceeding against such persons as might have infringed the laws prohibiting the illicit trade, either as commanders or freighters of the ships, would be by civil actions to recover the penalties given by law for the same; and we therefore directed that the Company's Attorney should be instructed to apply immediately to such persons as appeared from the letters of Mr. Fenwick and other papers on this subject to have it in their power to give any evidence thereupon, and after having committed to writing such evidence as they might furnish him with, to lay before Mr. Burroughs and take his opinion whether there appeared to be sufficient ground for supporting such action against any and which of the persons in question, reporting the same to the Board with the least possible delay. We thought it incumbent upon us to add that in consequence of our determination to proceed as above by civil action, it would be improper, and

45. It appears however that Mr. Fenwick, upon a personal application made to him by the Company's Attorney, declared his ignorance of the connexions of Mr. Campbell of the *Il Gentile*, but referred him to the shopkeeper Mr. Joys and several other persons, who all disavowed any knowledge of Mr. Campbell or the ship *Il Gentile*.

Consn. 16th March.

46. The species of proof that was ultimately collected that Mr. Campbell was a British subject concerned in an illegal commerce and trading under foreign colours was not thought by the Advocate General sufficient to warrant a prosecution against him on the part of the Company; and as that prosecution must have depended for its support on the single evidence of Mr. Fenwick himself, we had no hesitation in refusing to commit the interests and honor of the Company upon such a foundation to the hazard of a failure by commencing an action against Mr. Campbell in the Supreme Court of Judicature.

Consn. 16th March.

47. Besides the ships that we have already mentioned, informations were lodged by Mr. C. Fenwick against the ships *Princessa Fredericka*, *Crown Princess* and *Lydia*.

48. Many suggestions of a similar nature to those brought forward with respect to the *Il Gentile* were thrown out by Mr. Fenwick in relation to the *Princessa Frederica*, and these fell far short of even the appearance of proof. The Company's Attorney was ordered to enquire of him what grounds he had for supposing that this ship was the property of a British subject, or freighted or commanded by a subject of His Majesty, and what positive evidence he could furnish to prove that she was trading against the laws. Mr. Fenwick sent a hasty and insufficient answer to this application and we have since been able to collect no more upon the subject.

49. In regard to the *Crown Princessa Maria*, Captain—Christmas, the only information laid before us was that she was advertized for freight, and this was too imperfect to admit of our founding any proceeding upon it.

50. In consequence of the enquiries which we had directed to be made at the instance of Mr. Fenwick respecting the ship *Lydia*, he furnished us with various articles of information which are detailed in two letters from him dated the 9th, and two dated the 10th of March. They are recorded on our proceedings of the 14th of that month with the result of the investigations made upon the subject by the Company's Attorney and the opinion of the Advocate General, which appearing to us to involve some doubt, we desired him to acquaint us "whether the evidence that had been collected was sufficient to justify the seizure of the ship *Lydia* and her cargo, in case an action should be brought to recover damages for such seizure". By his reply it appeared that notwithstanding the positive assertions of Mr. Fenwick in one of his letters dated the 10th of March that he had seen the seamen in that letter mentioned and that they would confirm the information given against the *Lydia* and particularly would prove that Thomas Watson was the owner and real Captain, yet those men, when applied to by the Company's Attorney,

Consn. 14th March.

Consn. 21 March.

the ship and cargo were his, Mr. Popham's, property. He also stated that shortly after the *Etrusco's* return she was sold, and Captain Popham purchased a new ship of Mr. W. Francis, an American, which ship Captain Popham likewise called the *Etrusco*. It was understood that the *Etrusco* was on the point of sailing from Bengal, and Fenwick proposed that she should be detained until her pass and credentials should have been fully examined.

41. He acknowledged in a subsequent letter which he addressed to the Company's Attorney that he could only speak from general report
 Consn. 15th Feb- and public notoriety, excepting as to the circumstance
 ruary. of Mr. Popham's being a British subject, which was
 evident from his possessing the commission of a lieutenant in His Majesty's navy, and from his having to Mr. Fenwick's own knowledge first retailed a
 Consn. 29th Feb- part of the Europe cargo brought in the *Etrusco*, and
 ruary. disposed of the remainder through Messrs. Brewell.
 Do. 15th Do. Dring & Co., auctioneers in Calcutta. As a corroborative proof that the *Etrusco* belonged to Mr. Popham and that he considered himself as owner and commander of the ship, Mr. Fenwick stated that upon
 Consn. 15th Do. an action at law having been brought by Mr. Swinhoe
 as attorney of the Supreme Court on the part of one Stud, the Boatswain of the *L'Etrusco*, to recover a sum due to him for wages, Captain Popham thought proper to pay the debt. Mr. Fenwick, in his letter of the 14th of February, referred to many other points of evidence which it would be expedient to procure but which he confessed his own inability to attest, and upon summing up all the articles of additional information which he alluded to in his correspondence regarding the *Etrusco*, we directed our Attorney to collect and digest the same, and then submit it to our Advocate General.

42. In our proceedings of this date, upon taking into consideration the opinion delivered by the Advocate General upon the question referred to him
 whether there appeared sufficient evidence against
 Consn. 21st March. Mr. Popham to recover the penalties given by law for the infringement of the statutes prohibiting illicit trade, we resolved that an action should be commenced against Mr. Popham in the Supreme Court of Judicature to recover the penalty of £500 given by the statute for acting under a foreign flag in trading to the East Indies.

43. We did not deem it advisable to direct an action against Mr. Popham for the recovery of any other penalty, from an apprehension that such
 an action might be successfully defended and the
 Consn. 21st March. Company thereby subjected to costs, and also because we deemed it inexpedient to run the hazard of a defeat in any attempt made to enforce a penal statute enacted for the protection of the Company's exclusive trade.

44. The principal points of Mr. Fenwick's information respecting the ship *Il Gentile* are that Captain Campbell, who served [in the] last war in the British navy, came out commander of her and is a British subject, that his friends built her in 1786 in the river Thames, that it was to be presumed that the cargo was his own and that it was sold to Mr. Joys.

SECRET LETTER DATED 5 MAY 1792

Sugar to be secured for the Company's investment.

SECRET DEPARTMENT

TO the Secret Committee of the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We had the honor to receive on the 2d instant by the way of Bussorah your commands dated the 3d of November, 1791, directing us for the reason therein given to secure a sufficient quantity of sugar for the Company's investment or for such a proportion of it as we may have allotted for that article.

2. A copy of your letter was immediately sent to the Board of Trade, and we have the honor to enclose a copy of their answer to it.

3. The measure they have proposed of enlarging the Company's Bengal commerce in this new and valuable branch of investment appeared to us to be so proper that we have given them authority to carry it into execution. We also agreed to write to the Bombay Government to request that they will send round the ships ordered to that Presidency from Europe, if they should not be able to fill them up with pepper or other valuable goods on the Malabar Coast, that a quantity of sugar may be put on board here. They will afterwards return to Bombay to complete their cargoes for England.

4. A copy of our letter to the Governor in Council upon this occasion will be sent a number in the packet.

5. We are induced by the intelligence which you have been pleased to send to us to recommend most earnestly to the favorable consideration of the Honorable Court of Directors the plan proposed by the Board of Trade and adverted to in the 30 and 31st paragraphs of our address dated the 27th ultimo for extending the Company's navigation and commerce in India, and we shall hope to receive as early an answer to this proposal as the importance of it will conveniently admit.

Fort William,
5th May, 1792.

We have the honor to be.

(Per Dutton.)

were found totally unable to establish the fact, or to their own knowledge to say to whom the ship or her cargo belonged. The Advocate General, in his former letter with respect to the *Lydia*, had founded an opinion and advice therein contained on a supposition that Mr. Fenwick had really seen the seamen in question and truly stated the evidence they could give; but finding from the report made to him by the Company's Attorney of that evidence that Mr. Fenwick's assertions with respect to it were wholly unfounded, Mr. Burroughs, in his second letter, declared his opinion to be that no evidence had been obtained to shew that either the *Lydia* or her cargo were the property of any subject of His Majesty, except that [the] *prima facie* and presumptive evidence which arose from their being in the possession of persons who were subjects of His Majesty, and the effect of which would easily be done away by any proof that they belonged to foreigners.

51. Under these circumstances we deemed it unadvisable to order a seizure of the ship until we could take this decided measure on more solid grounds to warrant it; and had we placed more confidence in the assurances of Mr. C. Fenwick we should have been a good deal disappointed that after his positive engagement to prove the *Lydia* to be British property he entirely failed in making any discovery that would allow us to proceed upon it.

52. It appeared upon further enquiry that although there were strong grounds to suspect both the *Lydia* and her cargo to be British property, yet they were so covered and defended from proof of that fact by the Bill of Sale, Pass and other papers communicated to us and recorded by a translation of them in our proceedings of the 4th April, that according to the opinion of the Advocate General the Company would probably have been defeated in an action if brought for the seizure of either.

53. We have now endeavoured to lay before you a general but accurate detail upon the subject of the information delivered to us by Mr. C. Fenwick, referring to our proceedings on the respective dates; and we have only to add that we hope you will concur with us in thinking that the measures we adopted were more expedient than any others suggested, for, however disposed we may have been on a private or unofficial view of circumstances to admit in some instances the great probability of the facts premised or positively alledged by Mr. Fenwick, yet we thought we should but ill discharge our duty to the Company by precipitating them on such slight grounds into strong measures of so much immediate magnitude as well as eventual importance.

54. Our object has therefore been to preserve the respect and influence of Government undiminished and to avoid the risk of involving the Company in extensive doubtful litigations as well as in differences with foreign powers by stopping ships under foreign flags, richly freighted and ready to sail, at a time of the year when the smallest delay might have occasioned the loss of the season and when ultimate failure at law would not only subject the Company to enormous damages but would also have the effect of encouraging, instead of checking, future adventures in this illicit trade.

Fort William,
27th April, 1792.

We have the honor to be
Sir,

(Per Dutton.)

requesting from your Honourable Court the earliest advice of the number and tonnage of the ships you may take up in consequence.

Fort William,
3rd September, 1792.

We have the honor to be,
Honorable Sirs,
Your most faithful servants.

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SECRET LETTER DATED 15 MAY 1794

Political state of India not favourable for undertaking the expedition against Mauritius: Marathas too busy with their own disputes but their power not to be ignored; the Nizam, if unsupported by the Company, likely to yield to the Maratha and Mysore demands; Tipu still formidable—Governor General in Council not in favour of the expedition for the time being—Difficulties in the way of undertaking the expedition: paucity of European troops in India and the dangers involved in withdrawing any portion of them.

SECRET DEPARTMENT

TO the Secret Committee of the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Your Secret Dispatches of the 23d October and 26th November last by His Majesty's ship the *Diomedé* were forwarded to us by the Governor in Council of Fort St. George, with an address from him dated the 23d ultimo, and reached us on the evening of the 4th instant.

2. The important subject of these dispatches engaged our most serious and deliberate attention, as you will perceive from the copy of our proceedings upon them, which we transmit enclosed.

3. The natural importance of the measure, the authority by which it had been judged expedient, and the obligation of obedience to your orders as well as our own wishes, urged us to promote and second by every possible caution your views in undertaking an expedition against the French Islands. But, after the maturest consideration, being fully impressed with a conviction that neither the European troops prescribed by your instructions, nor the more limited number required by Colonel Stuart, could be withdrawn from India without endangering the security of the British possessions, we submitted voluntarily to adopt the following resolutions, which we trust will be fully supported by the details and arguments in the minute preceding them:—

“The Governor General in Council, having weighed and considered with the greatest attention the important subject contained in the dispatches from the Secret Committee of the Honorable the Court of Directors, received on Sunday night and read and recorded on Monday the 5th instant, proceeds without further delay to state his observations and reflections upon it:—

SECRET LETTER DATED 3 SEPTEMBER 1792¹

Enquiries about the quantity of sugar to be sent in 1793-94.

TO the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Our Secretary having laid before us a letter which he received on the 11th ultimo from Mr. Secretary Morton dated the 1st of March, 1792, desiring to be acquainted, by an overland packet and the earliest sea conveyance, for the information of your Honorable Court, what quantity of sugar we should probably consign to England between the months of November 1793 and March 1794, with the expected cost of the same in proportion to the different quantities we might be able to procure, we called upon the Board of Trade to furnish us with this estimate as soon as possible.

2. We were afterwards, on the arrival of your ship *Pomborne*, honoured with your dispatch for this Department dated the 14th of March requiring the same account, with a small exception as to the date of consignment, which is stated to be from the beginning of October 1793 to the 1st of February, 1794; and you desire that we will continue from time to time to give you the earliest information upon this subject, that you may be apprized what quantity of tonnage it will be necessary to provide for bringing the sugar to England. To this order we shall pay the strictest attention in our power.

3. Previous to the receipt of the letter from Mr. Secretary Morton, your Board of Trade had, of themselves, seeing that the state of the sugar trade rendered it expedient to take early measures for providing cargoes of that article for the ship[s] that would sail from hence in the season of 1793/4, issued to the sugar *aurings* the instructions of which we enclose a copy no. 1.

4. We have since received a letter from the Board of Trade, containing the best information that they are at present able to furnish, in answer to the dispatch from Mr. Morton; and we have the honor to lay before you a copy of it no. 2.

5. To add to the chances of its reaching England in sufficient time for the purpose mentioned by your Honorable Court, and according to your directions, we shall forward it overland by the way of Bombay, giving instructions to the Governor in Council at that Presidency to dispatch our letter to Bussorah immediately by an express conveyance.

6. Your attention will be particularly drawn to the 10th paragraph of the letter from the Board of Trade in which they mention the number of ships they shall be able to return in 1793/4, supposing a continuance of peace and usual seasons; and, according to their desire, we take the liberty of

4,390, exclusive of 300 artillery; and the effect upon the strength of the army in general by withdrawing this force from it would be as follows:—

“The total of the military peace establishment for the three Presidencies would be nominally reduced to one half of their full complement, but allowing for sickness and other causes of disability, the actual diminution may be estimated at two thirds. The European infantry at Madras will be reduced to 1,841, and from the mode in which the men for the service have been selected, all the sick and disabled of the army will be included in that number, so that the proportion of men fit for duty left on the Coast will not exceed one thousand rank and file.

“The Board cannot but express their regret that the President in Council at Fort St. George should have omitted to state to this Government, as required by the instructions of the Secret Committee, his full and explicit sentiments on the European force indispensably necessary for the safety of the Carnatic. Specific information on this point would have enabled the Board to decide conclusively upon their competency to provide the adequate means of defence during the absence of the troops required for the expedition without the necessity of depending solely upon the suggestions of their own judgment.

“The sentiments of the President in Council at Fort St. George are thus expressed in a letter addressed by their Secretary to Colonel Brathwaite:— ‘The President in Council is aware that the measure in agitation will occasion a temporary weakness in the defences of the Carnatic; but as the Governor General in Council is apprized of the orders of the Secret Committee, and will provide, as far as may be practicable, for the security of the Company’s possessions under this Presidency during the absence of the troops, there is every reason to hope that this inconvenience will not, in the present situation of affairs, be materially felt.’

“If the security of the Company’s possessions in the Carnatic depends upon the substitution of an European force equal to that proposed to be drawn from it, nothing can be more apparent than the impossibility of making the substitution, as the total of the infantry, rank and file, at Bengal and Bombay at this moment amounts only to 4,918 men. How much less, in the opinion of the President in Council, might suffice for the safety of the Carnatic, or whether any substitution could compensate for the European force proposed to be withdrawn, the Board are not informed by him.

“The Commander in Chief does not hesitate to state his sentiments, in which the Board entirely concur with him, that the peace establishment of the army in India, supposing it complete, is not more than sufficient for the protection of the Company’s possessions, and that being already deficient in the proportion of a third nearly, a further reduction of the European infantry, rank and file, in the extent proposed by the Secret Committee or by Colonel Stuart, would be immediately dangerous.

“But confining¹ the consideration to the practicability of replacing the European troops at Madras by others from Bengal and Bombay, it remains to consider the greatest number that can be spared from both these Presidencies; and the Commander in Chief, deeming it his duty to second as far as possible the views of the British Ministry and Secret Committee, has prepared a statement of the numbers² in the greatest possible extent:—

"The expediency of reducing the French settlement at Mauritius and Bourbon has often occurred to the consideration of the Board; and if they had possessed means in their apprehension adequate to the attempt, they would have eagerly anticipated the resolution of His Majesty's Ministers for undertaking an expedition against those islands.

"The Secret Committee, in their instructions to the Presidency of Fort St. George, express a wish that the expedition should take place as soon as possible, unless very particular reasons should induce this Government to suspend it, and their orders to this Government are to the same effect, unless from some change of affairs in India it should appear dangerous to the Company's settlements that the considerable force required for this expedition should be withdrawn from them.

"The expectations of His Majesty's Ministers and the Secret Committee cannot exceed the anxious desire of this Government to give the fullest and speediest effect to the measures already taken in execution of the important enterprize which have been judged expedient; but as it involves the safety of the Company's possessions in India, the Governor General in Council, deeming their protection his permanent [paramount] duty, conceives it an indispensable obligation upon him to consider under this view, and in their fullest extent, all the consequences of the question referred to his decision.

"Nothing can be clearer or more generally admitted than the absolute necessity of a sufficient number of European troops in our armies, whether for the purpose of military operations, or as a due counterpoise to the native troops, or for encouraging and supporting the latter in action; and in this conviction the Commander in Chief informs the Board that he embraced the earliest opportunity which occurred after his accession to his present station of representing to the Right Honorable the Secretary of War the incomplete state of His Majesty's and the Company's European forces in India, with his opinion that they were become inadequate to the services for which they might eventually be required.

"That the Governor General in Council, from a knowledge of the effective European strength at the different Presidencies, may be enabled to judge what proportion of it can be spared for Madras, the Commander in Chief, Sir Robert Abercromby, now communicates a return of the forces, from which it appears that the total rank and file of His Majesty's and the Company's European troops, including infantry and artillery, are as follows:—

	<i>Artillery</i>	<i>Infantry</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bengal ...	878	2,686	3,564
Madras ...	768	6,231	6,999
Bombay ...	384	2,232	2,616
Total ...	2,030	11,149	13,179

The total is less than the proper peace establishment by near five thousand men.

"The number of European soldiers proposed by Colonel Stuart for the expedition, with a reservation of the sanction of Sir William Meadows, is

forces surviving the completion of it might for a long time be required for the garrisons of the conquered islands; and considering the posture of affairs in Europe, it cannot be expected that the troops so stationed can be relieved from thence, or that recruits will arrive to complete the military establishments in India.

"The supposition of a possible failure in the expedition is attended with more serious consequences. The troops might return shattered and diminished, and the misfortune of an unsuccessful attempt would materially affect the reputation of the English Government in India, and consequently its power, in support of which the value of opinion is well known.

"In the arguments now recorded, the Governor General in Council, as must obviously appear, has had a view to the political state of India, on which, as materially influencing his sentiments with regard to the question under discussion, he deems it necessary to enter into a fuller explanation.

"That there is no reason from present appearances to apprehend any circumstances likely to involve the Company in war with the native powers may be admitted; but the tranquillity of the Company's possessions must be deemed to be endangered from the moment in which the defence necessary for their protection is withdrawn. Treaties and alliance[s] would prove a feeble barrier against the ambition of the native powers, if no other defence existed against invasion.

"It remains then to consider the actual situation of the Marhattas, the Nizam and Tippoo. With respect to the former it may be presumed that their attention for some time will be sufficiently engaged in their discussions with the Nizam, in the politics occasioned by the death of Sindiah, and their military operations in the west of India against Angria and the Colapore Rajah, to take immediate advantage of the diminution^d of our strength. The successor of Sindia will be equally occupied in the establishment of his own power, and the commanders of the deceased chieftain, who are formidable from their strength and situation, will follow the views of their new master; yet, it is not to be disregarded that in the army under Colonel De Boigne there are many French officers. Any attack upon Bombay by the French is out of all question, and there is no ground of alarm from the Poona Government in that quarter. The weakness of the Nizam is at once a security against his attacking us and a temptation to Tippoo and the Marhattas to invade his dominions.

"The political discussions between the Nizam and the Peshwah have by no means a pacific appearance, and the diminution of our forces must lessen the weight of our interposition between them as well as the general importance of the English power; and the Nizam may perhaps submit to demands of the Peshwah rather than oppose him at the certainty of hostilities in which he can have no support from us. The same remark applies to the unadjusted disputes between the Nizam and Tippoo Sultan regarding boundaries in consequence of the Treaty of Seringapatam, and the return of the hostage princes has left us without any other check upon Tippoo than what we derive from our actual strength and alliances.

"The hazard of danger in the opinion of the Board relates principally

	<i>Rank and file</i>
"From Bengal: His Majesty's 76th Regiment ...	396
" Malabar: His Majesty's 75th Regiment ...	459
" Bombay: His Majesty's 77th Regiment ...	513
" Bengal: Honorable Company's 3rd European Battalion ...	258
" Bengal: Honorable Company's 4th European Battalion ...	382
	<hr/> 2,008 <hr/>

Three hundred artillery to be added to the above from Bengal.

"With this appropriation the number of European rank and file remaining at Bengal and Bombay will be as follows:—

At Bengal	1,650
" Bombay	1,260
And of artillery:—	
At Bengal	698
" Bombay	384

And the military establishment on the Coast will then stand as follows:—

European infantry, rank and file, belonging to the Coast	1,841
Supplies from Bengal and Bombay	2,008
	<hr/> 3,849 <hr/>

The artillery, receiving a supply equal to those withdrawn, would be as at present.

"The difference between the above number 3,849 and that of the troops at Madras in the return now recorded is 2,382 rank and file, but the strength of men fit for duty will not, on the ground of a preceding remark, exceed 3,000 men, and probably fall short of it.

"That this number with the addition of native troops will be deemed adequate to the security of our possessions on the Coast, the Governor General in Council presumes, will not be affirmed; and in the event of an emergency, the preceding statement will indisputably prove that no considerable reinforcement can be sent from Bengal and Bombay, nor any without hazard.

"The total rank and file at the three Presidencies, if the requisition of Colonel Stuart be complied with and the arrangements in consequence take place, will be 6,759 only, viz.,

At Madras ...	3,849	
" Bengal ...	1,650	
" Bombay ...	1,260	of which a considerable number must always be unfit for duty.

"If the absence of the troops required for the expedition were supposed to be for a short time only, the question would be relieved of a part of its difficulties. But, presuming the enterprize successful, the whole European

that under these circumstances he would probably be induced to invade our dominions; and they have no hesitation in adding their conviction that the invasion would be attended with most serious consequences.

"Admitting our frontiers to be improved, our possessions at the same time are extended, particularly by the ceded provinces on the coast of Malabar; and if our means after the subtraction of the troops required for the expedition are unequal to the conduct of an offensive war, they are no less so for the purpose of general defence. Having stated it as a fundamental principle that the safety of the Company's possessions depends upon their real force to defend them, and the absolute necessity that it should be composed of a large proportion of Europeans, it will not be contended that, if an establishment of 17,000 infantry is requisite for that purpose, the British dominions in India can be deemed secure when left with only 6,759 European rank and file, who must, from obvious causes, unless recruited from^e Europe, be in a state of progressive decrease.

"The Governor General in Council places no further reliance on the collateral arguments which he has stated than as they lead to the conclusion of actual danger to the British possessions in India, as to [sic] the sole consideration that could weigh with him to hesitate granting in their fullest extent the force required for the expedition prescribed by the orders of the Secret Committee.

"The Governor General in Council cannot but regret the want of those communications with Colonel Stuart, to which he is referred by the Secret Committee. It is of the utmost importance to ascertain whether His Majesty's Ministers were informed of the defective state of the army in India when it was proposed to withdraw from it 5,000 European rank and file and 300 artillery for an expedition against the French Islands; of this he is uninformed, as well as whether any recruits are expected from Europe by the ships of the season, or whether there is a probability of the arrival of any of His Majesty's troops. Wholly unapprized of the views of His Majesty's Ministers further than as they are expressed in the instructions of the Secret Committee on the subject of the expedition, his reasoning applies to the safety of the British possessions in India, as affected by the reduction of the force required for their defence.

"The Governor General in Council does not think it his duty to enter into discussion regarding the mode or practicability of a successful attempt upon Mauritius and Bourbon; it will be sufficient to communicate the intelligence collected at Bengal regarding those islands for the information of Major General Sir William Meadows and Colonel Stuart, that they may have all the information before them which it is in the power of this Government to furnish.

"Having thus fully detailed the observations which have occurred on the instructions of the Secret Committee, the Board will now proceed to a conclusion. Little doubt appears to have been entertained in Europe of the ability of this country to furnish the troops required for the expedition in question, and still less of its success. In this confidence, and at a heavy expence, a naval armament of great magnitude has been fitted out, and the disappointment, should the expedition be suspended, cannot but be severely felt. The Board, most forcibly impressed with the weight due to these arguments and anxious for

to Tippoo, and the consequences would be ultimately near the same whether he attacked the Nizam or our possessions in the Carnatic.

"It cannot be supposed that the character of Tippoo Sultaun is changed by the events of the late war, although his power has been so materially reduced. Resentment is now added to his ambition. The Governor General in Council states it as a fundamental principle that Tippoo looks to a favorable opportunity for regaining the possessions of which he has been deprived and that he will make the attempt whenever that opportunity in his judgement occurs.

"Upon this principle the Governor General in Council cannot but deem it highly probable that Tippoo Sultaun would avail himself of the absence of our force to commence hostilities, and, if the discussions between the Marhattas and the Nizam should terminate in war, he would have a stronger inducement. We could not in that case expect the assistance of our allies; and on that assistance, at any time, little reliance can be placed, unless we were in a situation to make an effectual opposition without it. It is not improbable that the Peshwah, in the supposed event of a war with Tippoo, might consider it more his interest to remain neuter in the contest in the view of availing himself of the opportunity to establish his controul in the north, and of benefiting by a contention which must necessarily weaken one or both of the parties engaged in it. The policy and arguments of the late Madajec Sindeah were directed to impress the Peshwah with a conviction that our power was more formidable, and more to be apprehended, than that of Tippoo; and to his suggestions the delay of the Marhattas in completing the explanatory defensive treaty is attributed⁵.

"If it should be contended that the power of Tippoo has been too far reduced to admit of a renewal of hostilities on his part, the Governor General in Council thinks it necessary to observe that, from connected as well as late accounts from Seringapatam, he still appears to have a powerful force on foot, which would be formidable in proportion to the diminution of our strength and the experience which he acquired in the late war, the successful termination of which, whatever assistance we might derive from the co-operation of our allies, must be attributed to the exertions of the British troops.

"To suppose the native powers of India inattentive to the conduct or operations of this Government would imply great ignorance of the political state of Hindostan, and the diminution of our force, if the expedition against the islands should take place, would be soon made known, probably with exaggeration. With most of the native courts Europeans are connected, capable of supplying the defective intelligence of the natives. Let it be conceived that accurate information of the reduction of our European strength were communicated to Tippoo, with an explanation that a long period must elapse before it would return, or any reinforcement arrive to supply its absence; that, in replacing a part of it, our forces both at Bengal and Bombay had been weakened, and that no further supplies would be sent from those settlements. He would conclude very justly that we were not in a situation to carry on an offensive war, which alone could be formidable to him; and he well knows what the Marhattas as well as the Nizam have plainly asserted, that a protracted war must be ruinous to us in the extreme. The Board have stated their opinion

arguments: that no dependence can be placed on the attachment of the native powers; that our alliance, which is courted whilst our strength continues solid and undiminished, would be little regarded under an alteration of circumstances, and that those who, in the view of deriving support from this connection with us, are anxious for the continuance of it would become suspicious friends or real enemies, if the strength from which the support is derived were naturally lessened; that Tippoo, notwithstanding the reduction of his power, is still formidable from his activity, abilities, resources and experiences, and that from motives of resentment as well as ambition, he would seize the opportunity for resuming the possession of which he has been deprived, and the reputation which he has lost.

6. We are compelled, in justification of motives, most friendly [fervently] to request you to consider the consequences of an invasion of the Carnatic by Tippoo after the troops required by Colonel Stuart for the expedition against the islands shall have been withdrawn from it. The number of European rank and file left there would not exceed 3,000 men fit for the service; no considerable reinforcement could be spared from Bengal or Bombay, nor any be sent without hazard. With these troops it would be impossible to carry on an offensive war within the territories of Tippoo, and his cavalry in that case might overrun the Carnatic without effectual opposition, whilst the remainder of his army would be employed in other enterprizes. The troops sent against the Mauritius and Bourbon would either be wanted to maintain the conquest of these islands or, in the event of disappointment, return mutilated and diminished, affording, in the latter case, little accession of strength, which also would be counter-balanced by loss of reputation.

7. That Tippoo is ignorant of our situation, or unapprized of the advantages which he would have from the absence of our troops, is not to be supposed; nor should we be justified in trusting the safety of the Carnatic to this supposition, whilst we firmly believe that it would be endangered if an invasion of it by Tippoo were actually to take place. But admitting that our territories on that part of India might be defended, the successful termination of the war would be long protracted, and might alternately depend upon reinforcements from Europe which, from the posture of affairs there, we are assured, could not be speedy, nor even certain.

8. That it was foreseen in Europe that the expedition could not be undertaken without risque, we readily admit. If the probable absence of the European troops required for it could have been estimated, or if their absence could be supplied with new recruits and reinforcements, our apprehensions would be proportionately less. Our resolutions, as you will observe, are adopted to the extent of their [these] qualifications.

9. We have not the least doubt that our arguments will have the sanction of the opinion of Marquis Cornwallis, which, from our own recollection as well as that of other individuals with whom His Lordship confidently conversed, authorized us to assert that the number of European troops which we have directed to be tendered to Major General William Meadows exceed the supply which, in His Lordship's judgement, could be spared from India on an expedition against the French Islands.

10. It is impossible for us to determine whether the executive ~~will~~ ^{will}

undertaking the expedition against the islands, sincerely regret the absolute impossibility of completing the requisition either of the Secret Committee or of Colonel Stuart for European troops without endangering, in their judgement, the safety of the British possessions in India.

"The Board cannot suppose that the considerable deficiency in the European force required for the expedition can be adequately supplied by any number of native troops which could be offered, but will nevertheless authorize the tender and direct the supply of any number that General Meadows may require.

"If the Governor General in Council had been influenced solely by a personal responsibility, it would have induced his immediate obedience to the orders of the Secret Committee of the Honorable the Court of Directors; but being impressed with a thorough conviction that the troops required for this expedition could not be withdrawn from India without real danger to the British possessions in it, he deems it his indispensable duty to act upon that conviction, and he trusts His Majesty's Ministers and the Secret Committee of the Honorable Court of Directors will not hesitate to approve opinions and resolutions which, it must be evident, nothing but the strongest sense of duty could have suggested.

"Resolved therefore as follows:—

First. That in conformity with the opinions now recorded, no further proportion of European infantry, rank and file, be sent from India for an expedition against the Islands of Mauritius and Bourbon than can be replaced from Bengal and Bombay or than may be expected to be replaced by recruits or reinforcements from Europe by the ship[s] of the season.

Second. That in addition to the above, three hundred artillery be allotted for the expedition in question to be replaced by an equal number from Bengal.

Third. That as many native troops be granted for it as may be required and can be furnished in sufficient time for the purpose.

Fourth. That it be left to Major General Sir William Meadows or, in the event of his own arrival, to Colonel Stuart, to determine whether the preparations for the expedition shall be undertaken under the above limitations or otherwise."⁴

4. That there is a fair prospect, under existing circumstance[s], of peace in India, as well as the stability of our alliances with the Peshwah and Nizam, and that the power of Tippoo has been considerably reduced by the success of the late war, are points which we readily admit. But on the other hand we hold it equally indisputable that the severity [security] of the Company's dominions in India depends upon their actual strength to maintain it, that it is exposed to hazard from the moment in which that force necessary for that purpose is withdrawn, and that a large proportion of European soldiers in our armies is indispensibly requisite to constitute that strength, that the military European establishment is at present deficient by nearly 5,000^s men, and that the subtraction of those required for the expedition would reduce the number of European infantry remaining in India to a third of its full and proper complement.

5. In addition to these circumstances you will find the following

2. The Governor in Council of Fort St. George, apprehending that the measures taken by him, agreeably to the suggestions of Colonel Stuart, for procuring freight for the transportation of provisions and stores to the French Islands would prove insufficient, submitted to us the expediency of adopting similar measures in Bengal. He also stated it to be indispensably necessary that not less than thirty thousand bags of the best cargo rice should be shipped from Bengal; and in subsequent letters, besides an indent for 25 *garce* of *doll* [*dal*], 25 *garce* of pease, and 328 *candies* ghee of the best quality¹, has recommended that the commanders of all vessels sailing from hence with provisions &c. on account of the intended expedition may be directed to receive also as much livestock as they can take care of.

3. In pursuance of these applications, and that the necessary measures for carrying on the expedition, if ultimately resolved upon, might not be neglected, the Governor General lost no time in taking preparatory steps for supplying the quantity of grains specified by the Governor in Council of Fort St. George under terms² that the vessels carrying it should be freighted, if required, for carrying grain or troops to the Mauritius; and with this view proposed certain queries to the houses of agency and persons engaged in the mercantile line at this settlement to ascertain the terms upon which vessels might be obtained for the above purposes, including propositions also for the supply of the grain required if agreeable to them.

4. As many details would unavoidably attend the adjustment of these terms which could not be carried on with expedition without personal communications with³ the proposers, we readily accepted an offer from the Governor General to undertake the conclusion of agreements agreeably to the offers which might appear most advantageous to the public; and he has accordingly communicated to us an agreement with Messrs. Fairlie, Reid & Co., which we entirely approved, the terms of it being obviously the lowest of many offered. For the particulars we beg leave to refer to the accompanying copy of his minute and paper recorded with it on our proceedings of the 23d and 28 instant.

5. We have further directed the *doll* [*dal*], pease and ghee indented for to be provided by the garrison storekeeper, and included in the freight taken up; and as sheep appear to be the most proper livestock for the intended expedition, we have ordered as many of those to be sent on the vessels now freighted as they can conveniently carry, requesting the Governor General at the same time to enquire for any other vessels going to the Coast, and to engage with the commanders of them for the transportation of such number of sheep as they can take, so as to send in the whole, if possible, at least one thousand.

6. We calculated [that] the five freighted vessels will arrive at Madras at the latest by the 1st of August, and some of them earlier; but at all events we saw⁴ no reason to doubt their being fully in time for Admiral Gardiner's fleet, which was not expected to leave England before the 1st February, and⁵ will probably be later⁶ and can hardly be expected to reach Madras before the middle of July, if so soon.

7. The foregoing measures, as you will observe from our proceedings, were immediately communicated to the Governor in Council of Fort St.

think it expedient or otherwise to undertake the expedition under the limitations in our resolutions. Our instructions to the Presidency of Fort St. George are adapted to either supposition, and, at all events, we cannot but express our sincere satisfaction at the prospect of the arrival of the expected naval force from Europe, which the number and depredations of the French concerns [cruisers] in India rendered more and more necessary.

11. We have now detailed to you the motives which induced us to gratify [modify] the extent of your requisition for troops in the anxious expectation that they will be honored with your approbation. The safety and security of the British possessions in India, we deemed our permanent [paramount] duty; and it is a matter of sincere regret to us that we must, in our opinion, have exposed them to hazard and danger by an implicit obedience to your commands; but we should have been left without justification if in acting contrary to our conviction the apprehended dangers had ensued whilst your orders admitted the exercise of any discretion.

12. That the President in Council at Madras should have expressed an unqualified acquiescence in the requisition of Colonel Stuart may be accounted for from the urgent necessity of preparing without delay for the expectation [expedition], under the knowledge of your reference to our discretion, and in confidence that we possessed the means of substituting that defence which it was proposed to withdraw from the Carnatic. But we acknowledge our surprize and disappointment at his omission to inform us to what extent the substitution was judged essentially necessary, and that he should not have intimated any apprehension of hazard under circumstances which to our conviction suggested the idea of real danger; and we cannot but further regret that our decisions, has from necessity been made without the information which we have above pointed out in [and] the benefit of those communications with Colonel Stuart to which we are referred by your instructions.

Fort William,
the 15th May, 1794.

We have the honor to be
Eca., Eca., Eca.

(Per *Sugar Cane*.)

SECRET LETTER DATED 31 MAY 1794

Collection of stores, provisions and equipment for the Mauritius expedition.

TO the Secret Committee of the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have the honor of transmitting you by the *Boddington* a duplicate of our Secret Address of the 15th instant by the *Sugar Cane*; together with a continuation of our proceedings on the subject of it, of which we also subjoin the substance,

season has been entirely relinquished, and all the preparations for this purpose have stopped. Whether in the exercise of the discretion left to us it will be resumed next year is a point which we have not yet determined.

Fort William,
The 18th August, 1794.
(Overland)

We have the honor to be,
Honorable Sirs,
&ca., &ca., &ca.

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SECRET LETTER DATED 22 AUGUST 1794

Supply of pat and san.

TO the Secretary to the Secret Committee of the Honorable Court of Directors.

Sir,

The Governor General in Council has directed me to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a letter which has been received from the Board of Trade on the subject of the Committee's dispatches, dated the 23d October 1793, and to request that you will be pleased to lay it before them.

Fort William,
22d August, 1794.

I have the honor to be,
Sir, &ca.

(Per Nancy.)

(Signed) E. Hay.
Secretary to the Government.

ANNEXURE.

BOARD OF TRADE.
(For transmission to
the Court of Directors
per Nancy.)

SECRET DEPARTMENT

TO the Honorable Sir John Shore Bart., Governor General in Council at Fort William:

Honorable Sir,

1. Deeming it proper that the Court of Directors should be advised by the *Nancy* of the progress we have made towards fulfilling the orders contained in the letter from the Secret Committee under date the 23d of October, 1793, for a consignment of *paut* and *sun* by the returning ships of the e

George; and in consideration of the intelligence, contained in the Military Letter from the Honorable Court of Directors dated the 11th December and lately received by the *Heroine*, of their intention to send out a thousand recruits, if possible by the ships of the ensuing season, we resolved to authorize an addition of 500 Europeans, rank and file, to the force already ordered to be tendered to General Meadows by our instructions of the 9th instant, in passing which resolution we were influenced by a wish to use every justifiable effort to promote the expedition ordered by His Majesty and your Honorable Committee; and relying on the supply of recruits for Bengal being a moiety of the number stated, we judged it incumbent on us, as well as consistent with our former resolutions, to authorize the additional equipment above specified.

8. In taking measures for the eventual undertaking of the expedition, notwithstanding the uncertainty of the determination of the executive officers, under the prescribed limitations communicated to them through the Governor of Fort St. George, we, in addition to the reasons^a before assigned, considered it highly probable the Marquis Cornwallis would have arrived in England before the fleet destined for the attack of the French Islands could sail; and that in consequence of his communications, such a number of troops might be ordered from England as with those that can be spared from this country might be deemed sufficient for the expedition. We accordingly intimated this suggestion to the Governor in Council at Fort St. George as a further reason for their continuing to make every necessary preparation for the eventual undertaking of the expedition against the French Islands, though, we doubt not, they would have done it under our former instructions till the arrival of General Meadows or the receipt of further directions.

Fort William,
the 31st May, 1794.

(Per Boddington.)

I have the honor to be,
Honorable Sirs,
Your most faithful humble servants.

SECRET LETTER DATED 18 AUGUST 1794

Expedition against Mauritius abandoned for the season.

TO the Secret Committee of the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We take the opportunity of an overland dispatch to advice you of the receipt of your orders of the 23d of October and 26 November, 1793, and of the 21st March, 1794.

2. For a particular account of our proceedings and resolutions in consequence of them, we beg leave to refer you to our addresses by the *Sugar Cane*, *Boddington*, and *Nancy* packet, and have only to inform you at present that the prosecution of the expedition against the French Islands during the present

SECRET LETTER DATED 25 AUGUST 1794

The Mauritius expedition abandoned owing to the lateness of the season and paucity of European troops—Preparations made for undertaking it in the ensuing year—Proposal to station a small squadron near Mauritius to intercept enemy ships and collect information.

SECRET DEPARTMENT

TO the Secret Committee of the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Our dispatches of the 15th and 31st of May by the *Sugar Cane* and *Boddington* will advise you of our resolutions and proceedings upon the orders transmitted to us in your Secret Letters of the 23rd of October and 26th of November, 1793, relative to an expedition against the French Islands. Your subsequent instructions of the 21st March on the same subjects were received on the 4th ultimo.

2. It is proper, in point of form, to mention a mistake that happened in putting up the packets of the last dispatch, the one addressed on the envelope to the Government General enclosing a letter to the Governor in Council at Fort St. George, while that forwarded to Fort St. George enclosed a letter expressed to be to us, and a duplicate. We did not however hesitate to consider the orders addressed to the Government of Fort St. George as equally intended for the guidance of this.

3. We lost no time in meeting to take your orders into consideration, and, under the influence of the same opinions which have already directed our resolutions, expressed our determination to the Government of Madras in terms to the following effect. That as Colonel Stuart had already communicated his deliberate opinion that no diminution could be admitted in the original requisition for the European troops to be sent to the expedition against the Islands, and as we were equally confirmed in our sentiments that the requisition could not be complied with without danger to the British possessions in India, for this and other reasons, we were bound by the obligations of our duty to declare our decided opinion that the expedition should not be carried into execution during the present season. How far it might be advisable or practicable to undertake it at the commencement of the next year was a point of future determination, on which we should communicate to them our sentiments at large. This determination was strengthened by a consideration of the difficulties attending a timely substitution of an adequate force from Bengal to supply the troops to be sent from the Coast in the service of the expedition, as pointed out in a minute delivered by the Commander in Chief and recorded on the preceding day, and by further reasons suggested by the advanced state of the season and the uncertainty of the arrival of a sufficient naval force to co-operate in the proposed expedition.

season 1794/5, we beg leave to state the same briefly as follows, reserving our proceedings at large for transmission by a future opportunity.

2. We have ascertained that the whole quantity of 1,000 tons of *paut* required, by which, as noticed in our address of the 14th of May, we understand to be meant 30,000 factory maunds, is procurable.

3. The article is produced in every part of the country that is not inundated; but the districts where it most abounds, and where that grows from which are made the gunnies and rope mostly used in Calcutta, are Purneah, Dinagepore, Rajemahal, Rungpore, Jessore, and the southern parts of Nuddiah. Accordingly, we have looked to these places for the principle supply, but have ordered some from various other quarters for the purpose of general experiment.

4. The price will mostly stand at from about *sicca* rupees 1-8 to *sicca* rupees 1-12 per factory maund, including commission and all charges to the Presidency; to which, adding the charges that will arise at the Export Warehouse, *vizt.*, screwing, packing, cooly-hire, boat-hire and sloop-hire, reckoned at Sa. Rs. 0-13a-7⁰/₁₀p per factory maund, the total cost on shipboard, assuming the highest of the above rates, will be *sicca* rupees 2-9-7⁰/₁₀ per factory maund, or per ton £9-2-13¹/₄, being less by shillings 17-10 ps¹ than the rate at which the letter from the Secret Committee mentions that the commodity will answer.

5. The Export Warehouse charges, we must remark, will probably admit of reduction by some of the packing materials sent with the article from the factories being used again at the Warehouse, and hereafter, should the trade become permanent, by erecting a proper screw. At all events every possible attention will be given by us to bring the charges as low as possible.

6. The rate of £6-12-6 per ton at which, as noticed by the Secret Committee, the President at Radnagore in his letter of the 6th of October, 1792, estimated that the commodity could be delivered on ship-board, all charges included, proves, on further enquiry of him, erroneous. He appears to have fallen into the mistake by reckoning the Export Warehouse charges at only *sicca* rupees 0-2a-1 per factory maund. It appears also that the Radnagore Districts do not produce *paut* sufficient for their consumption, there being an annual importation from Dinagepore and the eastern parts of Bengal. Consequently a supply from that quarter cannot be looked for.

7. We have given directions for purchasing the hundred tons of *sun* required, and have no doubt of procuring that quantity.

We are,
with respect,
Honorable Sir,

Your most obedient humble servants.

Fort William,
the 20th August, 1794.

(Signed) John Bristow / Rd. Kennaway / John Bebb.

by the Government of Fort St. George, considering the length of time that may intervene before the expedition takes place.

9. We have also to notice an offer, liberally made to us by His Highness the Nabob Wallau Jau, of the use of the vessel, called the *Success* galley, in his service to be employed in any manner we might direct. We accepted it with suitable acknowledgements to the Nabob, but, when the service was deferred we would not detain the ship and acquainted the commander accordingly.

10. To this recital we have only to add what respects undertaking the expedition against the French Islands in the ensuing year.

11. You will observe our sentiments upon the subject, which is discussed in the enclosed copy of a letter that we wrote to the Government at Fort St. George on the 18th of last month, and that we have desired their opinion: 1st, as to the European force indispensibly necessary for the protection and security of the Company's possessions under their authority, taking into consideration at the same time any practicable augmentation of their native troops, either infantry or cavalry; and 2ndly, the means of procuring proper transports.

12. To lessen the difficulty of obtaining such transports, we have thought it expedient, after ascertaining that the ships employed in the China trade from Bombay would be best calculated for the accommodation of troops, to authorize the Select Committee of Supracargoes at Canton¹ to assemble the commanders of the several ships in that river that may be engaged in the country trade, of size and dimensions which would answer either for transports or store ships, and to communicate to them the possibility of a considerable quantity of tonnage being required at Fort St. George in the months of January and February next, submitting to them how far it might be an object, under this information, to touch at Fort St. George on the possibility of their ships being chartered for a time by the Company. The Select Committee of Supracargoes has been also requested to be very clear and explicit, upon making such communications, in giving the commanders to understand that it is not meant, by holding out this prospect of employment for their ships, to afford them any plea or claim for compensation, if their vessel should not be required; and of course that they will not be induced to diminish the freight of their returning ships from the expectation which we have suggested.

13. We are not aware that they can experience any inconvenience from calling at Fort St. George; and we understand that some ships equal perhaps to 9 or 10,000 tons burthen may be expected in Bengal between the months of November and January, so that, if the expedition should take place, we shall have it in our power to settle with some of the owners or commanders at this Presidency. Copies of our letter to Canton and Madras will be numbers in the packet.

14. On the subject of an expedition to the French Islands we shall do ourselves the honor of making you acquainted with our decision as soon as we are enabled to determine finally upon it; and in the mean time we have recommended to the Governor in Council at Fort St. George to urge on our parts to the Commander of His Majesty's ships in India the necessity of his

4. We resolved in consequence to discontinue all the preparations that had been made for it, and all the orders for the detachments intended to be sent to Fort St. George; but the directions, although issued immediately and forwarded by express, for the return of the detachment of artillery and lascars embarked on the country ship *Fort William* were too late to reach that ship, and the detachment has therefore proceeded to the Coast.

5. We revoked the appointments which had been made of a Deputy Pay Master and Head Surgeon to the detachment of European infantry &c. that had been under orders for the service, and requested the Governor General to use the best means in his power to settle with the owners or commanders of the ships that had been freighted for the conveyance of the troops and stores and were still here, so that the Company's loss upon this account might be diminished as much as possible under the change of circumstances incidental to your orders of the 21st of March.

6. In letters to the Bombay Government and Supravisor of Malabar, we desired the former to countermand any orders that might have been issued for sending round His Majesty's 77th Regiment to Madras, and the latter to signify to the Commanding Officer of the troops on the Malabar Coast that similar directions were to be given in respect to the 75th Regiment proceeding to the coast of Coromandel; and our determination to relinquish the expedition against the French Islands was communicated to the Residents at Poona and Hydrabad for the information of their respective Courts.

7. In a few days after our instructions of the 5th of July were sent to Madras, and in a letter of a prior date from that Government, we received their opinion strongly conclusive against the probability of means being found to convey the troops and stores to the French Islands without the assistance of the Company's ships; and with it a copy of a letter from Colonel Stuart in which he plainly evinces the expediency at least, if not the necessity, of suspending the expedition till next year. Copies of the letters from the Governor in Council at Fort St. George and Colonel Stuart upon this subject will be sent numbers in the packet.

8. Our proceedings of the annexed dates contain the resolutions that were passed and orders given in the interval between the date of our last advices and the receipt of your letter of the 21st of March for reinforcing the army at Madras from hence as well as by new levies to be made there, while so large a proportion of the troops at the Presidency should be employed on the proposed service. Under the present circumstances, it is unnecessary to detail these resolutions at length; but we think it incumbent on us to acquaint you that an application having been made by the Government at Fort St. George, by our desire, to the Dutch Government of Colombo for a body of their European troops to proceed to Madras and serve with those of the Company during the continuance of the expedition to the French Islands, they immediately declared their readiness to comply with it, and determined to spare us a detachment of 800 Europeans. A part was to be sent by water from Ceylon to Negapatam and the remainder from Trincomalé. We have proposed their remaining for the present at Negapatam, unless the Dutch Government should express a solicitude for their return or that should be thought more advisable

Fort St. George and Bombay for their respective guidance ; and we notified to the Director and Council at Chinsurah and to the Chief and Council at Fredricksnagore that we have been under the necessity of determining, for the present and until further orders, that the annual supplies of saltpetre to the foreign companies should be withheld. We beg your attention to the circumstance that these supplies are understood to be exported ; but we had no hesitation in assuring these Governments that upon any future revocation of the orders, if the exigencies of the Company and other considerations should admit of our affording the supplies that would be due for the intermediate time according to the quantities that have been usually spared each year to the foreign companies, we should readily consent to their being provided.

4. We also acquainted them that we had forbidden the shipping of saltpetre on ships or vessels belonging to foreign nations or to the individuals of foreign states.

5. To the communication of our sentiments to the Dutch Company, an answer was received rather expressive of their surprise at their being put in this respect upon the same footing with other nations in Bengal, as from the nature of their situation, as well as from the circumstance of the Dutch being our allies, they expected some distinction in their favor. They could not by any means allow that this accidental circumstance should be considered in any shape as a cession of their right to receive annually 23,000 maunds of saltpetre ; and they further stated that as the Dutch Company had never ceded their rights to a free trade, they could not permit themselves to be placed upon the same footing with other nations which had relinquished that privilege ; and finally they desired that we would not form an opinion so injurious to them as that of supposing that they would make any use of the permission detrimental to our interests. At the same time they informed us that circumstances rendered the usual supply at present unnecessary.

6. To this representation we replied that we thought it incumbent on us to assure them that in finding it our duty to withhold for a time the annual supplies of saltpetre to foreign companies, we had not the most remote intention of conveying thereby a supposition that the allies of the British nation would appropriate any part of such supplies to the assistance of foreigners, or to any purpose detrimental to our mutual interests ; but that with every precaution on their part to prevent the article from falling into the possession of the enemy, the risque would certainly be considerable ; and that it was a great satisfaction to us to find that they did not apprehend any inconvenience from its being withheld.

7. We also acquainted them that we had always understood that the annual supply of saltpetre was considered rather as an accommodation and indulgence, and that we had not the most remote intention of deriving precedent from the present stoppage of it ; but that, as they deemed it to be a right and prerogative, it became our duty to request that they would state to us the grounds on which their claim to such right was founded, assuring them at the same time that we should be fully open to conviction of our conception if the nature of supply should be erroneous.

8. We have received their answer stating the grounds on which they

returning with a part or the whole of his squadron to a station off Mauritius, as well for the purpose of cutting off supplies as for the chance of obtaining information on the state of the inhabitants at the Islands, with a request that if any information of importance should reach him, especially before the middle of October, he will immediately communicate it.

15. We have signified to the Madras Government that the confidence reposed in Colonel Stuart by His Majesty's Ministers, and the great responsibility which will remain with him in the event of carrying the expedition into effect, suggest the propriety of a communication with him on all matters relating to it, and that we shall be happy to receive his sentiments on any points of reference to them or of consideration between the two Governments, either by letter or personally, which the season and opportunity will now sufficiently admit.

16. It is only further necessary to add that in order to be better prepared for the expedition we have proposed to the Governor in Council at Fort St. George to complete their military establishment by the additional four battalions we before authorized, and that we have desired that the artillery sent round from hence on the ship *Fort William* may remain at that Presidency.

17. A continuation of our proceedings in this Department commencing with those of the 18th of February, 1793, and ending with the 4th of July, 1794, will be transmitted to you in the *Nancy's* packet.

Fort William,
25th August, 1794.
(*Per Nancy.*)

We have &c.

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SECRET LETTER DATED 30 DECEMBER 1794

Supply of saltpetre to foreigners withheld : Dutch protest—Naval unit sent for reconnaissance off the French Islands.

SECRET DEPARTMENT

TO the Secret Committee of the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches dated the 31st January, 8th and 21st of March, 8th of April, 24th of May and 14th of June.

2. The orders in your letter of 31st January relative to the homeward bound ships have been duly attended to, and instructions corresponding with the enclosed copies of them have been given to the commanders of the Indiamen now under dispatch.

3. Those of the 8th of March prohibiting the shipping of saltpetre on ships or vessels belonging to foreigners were communicated to the Governments of

16. At the suggestion of Colonel Stuart, the Madras Government ordered Major Petrie of their establishment to embark on one of the ships for the purpose of making such observations or enquiries as, in the event of our sending a force against the French, might prove of essential advantage; and for the purpose of assisting Major Petrie, the Madras Government sent also two French gentlemen, Captain Conway and Monsieur Courson, both well acquainted with the Islands, together with a French sailor whose knowledge of the coast at the Mauritius might render him a useful and an able pilot.

17. Our answers to your letters of the 21st of March, 8th April and 14th of June must be in general that we shall implicitly attend to the orders contained in them.

18. With respect to the expedition against the Mauritius, we beg leave to refer you to the enclosed copies of minutes from the Governor General, in whose sentiments on the subject we entirely concurred; and it is only necessary for us to state in consequence that it has been altogether relinquished, unless it can be undertaken with a force greatly inferior to the original requisition.

19. It may be proper to point out to your notice the observation of the Governor General relative to Monsieur De Grand Pré, who arrived in the *Pitt*, that the object of his mission to this country is publicly known, and that the exposure of it may be traced to the unguarded levity and imprudence of his own declarations at the Cape of Good Hope and during the voyage to India.

20. Having received information through Commodore Rainier¹, who procured it from the prisoners landed at Madras from the cartel ship from Tranquebar, of the probability of an attack by the enemy upon Fort Marlborough, although we were not by any means induced to believe that they would venture to detach from the Islands a force adequate to a successful attempt upon it, we thought it expedient to advise the Deputy Governor and Council at Fort Marlbro' of the intelligence, that they might be constantly prepared, adding we doubted not that in conformity with our instructions of the 14th of July they had avoided making any detachments, and had also taken every possible measure for their defence.

21. By the latest returns of the force stationed at Bencoolen we are of opinion that it is sufficient to repel any probable attack; and it is not in our contemplation to augment it.

22. We have great satisfaction in pointing out to you the attention of Commodore Rainier in addressing the Governor General respecting the most advisable employment of His Majesty's ships under his command for the protection of the British settlements and trade and those of our allies. A copy of the Governor General's answer to the Commodore's letter will form a number in the accompanying list of packet.

23. We have the honor to send a number in the packet copy of a letter from Lord Macartney.

24. We also transmit as a number in the packet copies of letters received from Messrs. Udney, Frushard and Laprimandaye, merchants of this place, and from Captain John Hayes of the Bombay Marine, who had conducted two ships belonging to himself and the above mentioned gentlemen on a

imagine their right to be founded, and shall hereafter record our sentiments on it.

9. The Danes expressed a hope that the prohibition was not to extend beyond the duration of the war, and that the quantity of saltpetre which had been supplied to them before our prohibition might be sent to Copenhagen by the Company's ships of this season.

10. We observed in answer that the state of affairs did not allow of any relaxation from our orders, and that we therefore could not assent to loading the ships of the Danish Company with any part of the saltpetre which had already been delivered, but that we were willing to receive it back at the prime cost, allowing also the usual interest upon the sum which had been paid for it previous to its redelivery.

11. In our despatches of the 15th and 31st of May by the *Sugar Cane* and *Boddington* and in those of the 25th of August by the *Nancy* packet, we had the honor of laying before you a detailed account of the steps which we had taken to each of those periods in consequence of your orders relative to the expedition against the French Islands. We now transmit a continuation of the most material circumstances which have occurred on this subject for your further information.

12. On the 18th of July, we addressed the Government at Fort St. George, requiring their explicit sentiments as to the European force which they might judge indispensibly necessary for the protection and security of the Company's possessions in the Carnatic, taking into consideration at the same time any practicable augmentation of their native troops, whether infantry or cavalry, with a view to ascertain the probable force which might be spared for the expedition against the Mauritius. On the 29th of August, we received their answer, enclosing a letter from the commander of the forces on the Coromandel Coast, whose opinion they had required, a copy of which, with its enclosure, we now transmit a number in the packet.

13. Colonel Brathwaite having suggested the propriety of giving additional bounty to the native recruits and of augmenting the cavalry corps to the war establishment, we concurred entirely with the Madras Government in their opinion of withholding their assent from the proposal relative to increasing the bounty money, if the levies could be completed upon the usual terms, as we were aware that, although the temporary necessity for raising a considerable force in a short time would soon be at an end, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to make afterwards any diminution of the increased bounty; we also disapproved of the augmentation suggested by Colonel Brathwaite of the cavalry, as it appeared from his own statement that he had little hope of being able to supply a sufficient number of horses.

14. In our letter by the *Nancy* packet, we acquainted you with our having desired the Government at Madras to apply to Captain Newcombe, who then commanded His Majesty's ships in India, to dispatch such part of his force as he thought sufficient for the purpose of cruising off the French Islands, as well to prevent supplies or intelligence from getting in as to ascertain the exact strength, situation and disposition of the French force at the Islands.

15. With this request Captain Newcombe complied and he dispatched the *Centurion* and *Diomedé* to cruise off the Mauritius.

3. From the enclosed copies of two letters, one addressed to us by Major Petrie of His Majesty's 77th Regiment, and one from Captain Osborne of the *Centurion* addressed to the senior officer commanding His Majesty's ships and vessels at Fort St. George, you will be advised of the particulars of an action which took place on the 22d of October off the Mauritius between the *Centurion* and *Diomedé* and four of the enemy's ships, *vizt.*, the two frigates the *Cybelles* and *La Prudente*, a ship of 26 and a brig of 14 guns. The vicinity to their own port and the darkness of the night favored the escape of the French ships after an engagement and pursuit of more than two hours.

4. The damage received by His Majesty's ship *Centurion* in this action obliged [her] to repair to Bombay by the shortest route to be refitted, and the *Diomedé* has arrived at Madras.

5. The information obtained by Major Petrie previous to the action, relative to the prepared state of the French Islands to resist an attack, will be found in his letter.

6. In our dispatches of the 30th of December, we advised you of our intention founded upon a minute laid before us by the Governor General to relinquish altogether the expedition against the Mauritius, unless it could be undertaken with a force greatly inferior to the original requisition. Monsieur De Grand Pré having delivered to the Governor General a memorial relating to the attack of the French Islands, a copy of it was transmitted by him to Lord Hobart, under a request that it might be communicated to Colonel Stuart, who was desired to state whether from the information of Monsr. De Grand Pré he thought it would be advisable to undertake the expedition with a smaller force than was originally intended for it. Colonel Stuart has signified in answer that nothing in the paper furnished by Monsieur De Grand Pré caused any alteration in his opinion respecting the force which he thought necessary to be employed on that service, and that it appeared by the latest information from the Mauritius that the island was put into a complete state of defence, and guarded by a body of 10,000 men, trained to arms and in readiness to act, by which his former opinion had been confirmed that no force inferior to that first proposed could be employed on the service with any probability of success. We have therefore relinquished all idea of prosecuting the expedition, and trust that our reasons for this determination, which have been so amply detailed, will prove satisfactory to you.

7. Monsieur De Grand Pré has submitted to us in a letter, of which we enclose a translate, the circumstances of his present situation, the increased expence he has been put to by having been obliged to come to Bengal instead of having proceeded to Madras, and his desire to receive our instructions whether he should remain here or go to the Coast.

8. Your orders given at the recommendation of the Honorable Board of Commissioners having determined the allowances of the gentleman from the time of his arrival in India till his departure from it, as well as the gratuity which on his return he should receive, we of course considered these orders as establishing the fixed rule for his allowances; but as we were sensible, at the same time, that the monthly salary assigned to him in India was wholly inadequate to his necessary expences, we have agreed to reimburse him those

voyage of discovery to the coast of New Guinea, together with a copy of a minute from the Governor General upon the proposal made by Captain Hayes for making a settlement on a part of that coast, to which he has given the name of New Albion.

25. After due consideration of the advantages held out by him and of the subject in general, and adverting to your orders prohibiting any new settlements to the eastward, and aware also of the expence which must attend the formation of a colony at Restoration Bay, even were the advantages so great or so certain as to authorize a deviation from your instructions, we entirely concurred with the Governor General in declining to authorize such a measure, or taking any part with respect to the establishment which Captain Hayes had made.

26. A copy of a minute laid before us by the Governor General relative to a Mr. William Duane, whom we have thought it necessary to send to Europe on one of the ships under dispatch, and a copy of the correspondence that has passed with that person will be sent numbers in the packet, together with a copy of the orders we have given to Captain Mitchell concerning him.

Fort William,
30th of December, 1794.

We have the honor to be,
Honorable Sirs &c.

(Per Rose.)

(Signed) J. Shore / Peter Speke / Wm. Cowper.

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SECRET LETTER DATED 31 JANUARY 1795

Expedition against Mauritius finally abandoned—De Grand Pré's services and the question of his allowances—Strengthening of the defences of Fort Marlborough.

SECRET DEPARTMENT

TO the Secret Committee of the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Our last advices from this Department were dated the 30th ultimo, and we have the honor to transmit to you copies of them by the ships under dispatch.

2. We have already informed you that Captain Newcombe had sent His Majesty's ships *Centurion* and *Diomedé* to cruize off the Mauritius in compliance with an application which had been made to him at our instance by the Government at Fort St. George. The object of the cruize was to intercept supplies or intelligence, and to ascertain the exact strength, situation and disposition of the French force at the Island.

SECRET LETTER DATED 27 JULY 1795

Outbreak of war with Republican Holland: capture of Trincomali, Cochin and Malacca ordered—Paucity of European troops in India.

SECRET DEPARTMENT

TO the Secret Committee of the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. The nature of our present conveyance imposes on us the necessity of restricting both the matter and terms of our communications. We shall soon have an opportunity of making them more compleat by a packet which it is our intention to dispatch by sea about the 20th of the ensuing month.

2. In consequence of your secret instructions in the dispatch of the annexed dates, and those of the Secretary of State to the Commander in Chief and to the Commanding Officers at the Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay, as well as to the officer commanding His Majesty's ships and vessels in the Indian seas, we resolved that immediate measures should be adopted to secure the possession of Trincomale and Cochin in the manner therein pointed out. With regard to the former of these places, a similar resolution was adopted by the Madras Government on the receipt of your dispatches; and upon a conference with Commodore Rainier it was determined also to secure Malacca. We have no official information that the troops and ships employed on these expeditions have yet sailed; but we are authorized to expect the receipt of it in a few days. With respect to Cochin and its dependencies, the orders have been sent from this Government through the Commander in Chief to the Commanding Officer of the troops in Malabar.

From the Secret Committee with enclosures, 20th February (2).
Ditto, without enclosures, 3d March.
Mr. Ramsay with duplicate enclosures, Do.

Received overland, 5th July, via Bombay.

Counterpart of the above besides a letter from Mr. Ramsay dated 13th March and 1 enclosure.

Via Suez, per Panther 7th July.

Counterparts of the above.

Via Madras, per John packet, 15th July.

Do. Do. Besides, a letter from the Secret Committee and enclosure, both dated 24th March.

Via Bombay, 16th July.

3. It was in contemplation at Madras to depute a gentleman to Batavia with the Prince Stadtholder's letter to Mr. Vander Graaff, and we have recommended the adoption of the measure.

4. Orders have been given relative to the Dutch factory at Surat, and instructions have been sent to Bombay in regard to the protection of the settlement held by the Portuguese at Goa¹.

he has incurred, and for that purpose, to advance him the sum of fifteen hundred rupees over and above the allowance that has been granted to him by your instructions.

9. We have further resolved that Monsieur De Grand Pré shall be allowed a passage to Madras on one of the Company's ships at their expence, to be settled in Europe, and that all suitable accommodations be afforded to him in such ship. We have acquainted him that, on his arrival at Fort St. George, he will receive the directions of the Governor at that Presidency either to proceed to Europe or to remain under the instructions that will be communicated from this Government; also that in the event of his returning to Europe, he will have proper accommodations in one of the Company's ships; and that the Madras Government will give orders accordingly. He proceeds from hence in the *Lord Hawkesbury*.

10. The information laid before us by Commodore Rainier of the probability of an attack by the enemy upon Fort Marlbro' induced us to leave it to the judgment of the Madras Government to regulate the departure of the Honorable Company's ship *Europa* from that Presidency for Bencoolen according to the information they might possess respecting the designs of the French. We desired that if any well-grounded intelligence should have reached them subsequent to the 10th of November to confirm the probability of the attempts of the enemy and, of course, the danger to which the *Europa* would be exposed, they would detain the ship at Madras, communicating to us the earliest notice of their determination; and as whether she proceeded immediately or not, it would be a great satisfaction to us to procure for her a convoy from Commodore Rainier, we requested that application might be made to him for that purpose, under an acquiescence in his determination whether he could with propriety spare it from other services of importance.

11. You will observe in our advices to the Honorable Court of Directors by the ships under dispatch that we have subsequently resolved upon the detention of the *Europa* at Madras in order that she may be joined by vessels from this place employed for the purpose of conveying reinforcements to Fort Marlbro'. We were induced to adopt this measure in consequence of information communicated to us by Lieutenant Coxe, who had arrived there from Fort Marlbro' and reported the military force of the settlement to be so inferior to that which had been exhibited to us in the late previous returns that an immediate addition to it became indispensibly necessary. A considerable part of the reinforcement may be conveniently accommodated in the ship above mentioned.

12. The Honorable Court of Directors have been apprized of the too probable loss of Captain Howal and of the detachment and stores dispatched to Fort Marlbro' in July last.

Fort William,
the 31st January, 1795.

We have the honor to be,
Honorable Sirs, &c., &c., &c.

(Per Essex.)

(Signed) J. Shore / P. Speke / Wm. Cowper.

of the authority given by the Honorable Court of Directors in their minutes of the 11th of March, she will carry a quantity of gruff goods. She is appointed to sail on the 20th of next month, and is to call at Fort St. George.

13. We have not yet determined whether the sum of money (not exceeding twenty lacs) required to supply the stated deficiency upon the order of investment for 1795 shall be raised by loan or by drawing bills. But the necessity of availing ourselves of this resource being explained in our minute of the 22d instant, which also details the reasons that have

No. 3. induced us to fix the amount of the investment for the ensuing year 1796 at one crore and five lacs of current rupees including all charges, we shall transmit a copy of the minute by this dispatch.

14. The amount having been thus determined, we desired the Board of Trade to furnish us with the best estimate they could form for the appropriation of it. The estimate has been prepared accordingly,

No. 4. and we forward a copy of it with a copy of their letter, to which we beg leave to refer for some particulars concerning it; and we request early instructions in reply to the suggestion of the Board of Trade for engaging ships in India on account of the investment of 1796, should it be impracticable to obtain tonnage on moderate terms in Europe. The Honorable Court of Directors will observe that the sketch of the investment for 1796 is liable to alteration according to the orders they may send from England.

15. The Honorable Court will receive by this dispatch a copy of a report made to us by the Board of Trade on the proposals of the British merchants, inhabitants of this place, to supply tonnage for the

No. 5. transportation of the merchandize of individuals from Bengal to Europe, and a copy of our minute and resolutions thereupon on the 3d of this month.

16. The *Lascelles* and *Royal Admiral* sailed from hence on the 7th ultimo.

17. The vessel taken up to proceed to Europe with our dispatches in August is the *Mary* of 303 tons, commanded by Captain Thomas Stephenson; and the Board of Trade will lade upon this ship so much cargo consisting of gruff goods, except saltpetre, as will put her in the best sailing trim, so that the freight value of whatever she may carry will so much lighten the charge of sending the packets. The *Mary* was built at Pegu, is a vessel belonging to this port, is duly registered according to the usage of the place, and, we understand, will be manned chiefly with Asiatic and foreign European seamen.

We have the honor to be,
Honorab!e Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servants.

Fort William,
27th July, 1795.

(Signed) J. Shore / Robt. Abercromby /
P. Speke / Wm. Cowper.

(Overland.)

5. On grounds of great expediency, we have authorized an augmentation of the native military establishments at Madras and Bombay.

6. Our political situation with respect to the native powers may be comprized in a few words, that no event has occurred to excite the least apprehension that the harmony subsisting between them and the Company's Government will be disturbed.

7. After a minute and deliberative discussion of our internal situation, comprehending the numbers, local disposition and discipline of the army, we have resolved, for reasons which we shall hereafter transmit to you and which we trust will prove convincing, to withdraw the detachments of regular troops employed on the internal duties of detail, and to substitute for them, as well as for the armed peons and *burkondosses*, a *sebundy* corps for the duties of the Revenue, Judicial, Commercial and Salt Departments; to establish a marine corps for the services of the Andamans, Prince of Wales's Island and Bencoolen, and the river duties; to raise a battalion from among the inhabitants of Ramghur for the duties of that district; and a corps of native militia for the general duties of the town of Calcutta with some exception. These necessary arrangements will, we trust, add considerably to the effective strength of the army.

8. We should neglect our public duty if we omitted to inform you that the European troops, both in His Majesty's and the Company's service in all India, cannot furnish an effective force exceeding 9,000 rank and file, after a moderate deduction for the sick and lame; that the expedition to Ceylon and Malacca will diminish this number by about 1,600; and that at this Presidency the establishment of officers in the Company's service is incomplete by one hundred, at Madras by about eighty, and at Bombay by about fifty.

9. Mr. Duncan has been advised of his appointment to be Governor of Bombay, and we have requested him to prepare without loss of time for his journey to that Presidency.

10. Upon the subjects of the Company's commercial affairs, we have to refer you to the enclosed copies of a letter and proceedings of the Board of Trade on the 14th instant relative to your orders of the 20th of February and the minutes of the Court on the 11th of March concerning tonnage; of our letter to Bombay on the 9th instant, of the Board of Trade's dated the 21st, our resolutions upon it, and the answer sent to it.

11. You will perceive from this answer that we have deemed it advisable to authorize their promising an indemnity to the owners of the shipping that may be engaged for Europe; and we submit to you (in case the measure should not have already been adopted) the expediency of making an application to His Majesty's Ministers to take such steps as may prevent any sort of embarrassment to the ships or goods, whether belonging to the Company or to individuals, from the existing Navigation Laws.

12. The first instance which will occur will be that of the *Mary*, as more particularly noticed in the concluding paragraph of this address. She is a vessel hired as a packet; but, for the reasons assigned, and in consequence

4. It affords us much satisfaction to find that the Government of Fort St. George, in consequence of the earlier receipt of the dispatches from Europe, had anticipated our resolutions, and, in concert with
 Cons. 24th July. Commodore Rainnier, had taken immediate measures
 27th Do. for obtaining possession of Trincomale. For this purpose
 10th August. a respectable force was collected with the greatest possible expedition, and it left Madras for the place of its destination on the 21st of July.

5. In the execution of this measure by the Government of Fort St. George, the following circumstances have attracted our attention and have been noticed to them: first, the notification in the address of the
 Cons. 7th August. Right Honorable President to the Governor of Ceylon which accompanied the transmission of the orders from the Stadtholder that force would be employed agreeably to the express commands of the King, if, contrary to His Majesty's expectations, resistance were made to those orders, and to the invitation and requisition founded upon them; and secondly, the resolution adopted by His Lordship in Council for entering into a treaty for a perpetual alliance of friendship with the King of Candia.

6. On the first point, the notification did not appear conformable to our construction of the dispatches from Europe; and as the letter to Mr. Van Angelbeck so long preceded the departure of the troops, we were apprehensive it might afford him an opportunity of throwing succours into Trincomale, if he should be disposed to resist the requisition for the admission of the British troops. The object of His Lordship in making the notification was to prevent all delays and the consequences of them.

7. On the second point, the resolution for entering into a treaty with the King of Candia, as the notification of the measure to this Government was unaccompanied by those explanations which a deference to the controul vested in us by statute indispensibly required, and as the measure itself was a pointed deviation from the statute, although we had the fullest conviction that it had been resolved upon from an anxious desire of the Governor in Council at Fort St. George to promote the public interests, and presuming a conviction on his part that his determination was conformable to his sense of the statute, we were nevertheless compelled by law and duty to call for those explanations which we wished had been communicated in the first instance.

8. With respect to the policy of the measure, under the imperfect information on this subject received from the Government of Fort St. George, we thought it further necessary to explain our sentiments to them upon it; and we now submit them to your judgement.

9. The admission of the British troops into Trincomale and Columbo in conformity with the orders of the Stadtholder may be deemed evidence of a disposition on the part of the Dutch to unite with those interests of which the Stadtholder is the head under the countenance and support of the British nation; and the invitation and requisition for their admission is combined with a stipulation for the eventual restoration of the settlement to States of Holland.

10. Considering these circumstances and the relative situation of the Dutch and the King of Candia, the unqualified proposition for a treaty with the King, communicated in terms which blend the cause and ob of the

SECRET LETTER DATED 18 AUGUST 1795

The Stadtholder's orders to the Dutch in India—Madras Government's resolution regarding a perpetual alliance with the King of Kandy ultra vires and impolitic—Despatch of troops for the capture of Malacca—Chinsura and Pulicat captured—Deficiency of European troops met by enlistment of Indian troops.

TO the Secret Committee of the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. In addition to our address of the 27th of last month, forwarded in duplicate to Bombay, and transmitted in triplicate by the present conveyance, we have the honor to submit to you a more detailed explanation of the measures which have been adopted in conformity to your instructions received under the annexed dates.

From the Secret Committee with enclosures, 20th February. (2).

Do. without enclosures, 3d March.

Mr. Ramsay with duplicate enclosures. Do.

Received
overland,
5th July,
Via Bombay.

Counterparts of the above besides a letter from Mr. Ramsay dated 13th March and 1 enclosure.

Via Suez,
per *Panther*,
7th July.

Counterparts of the above.

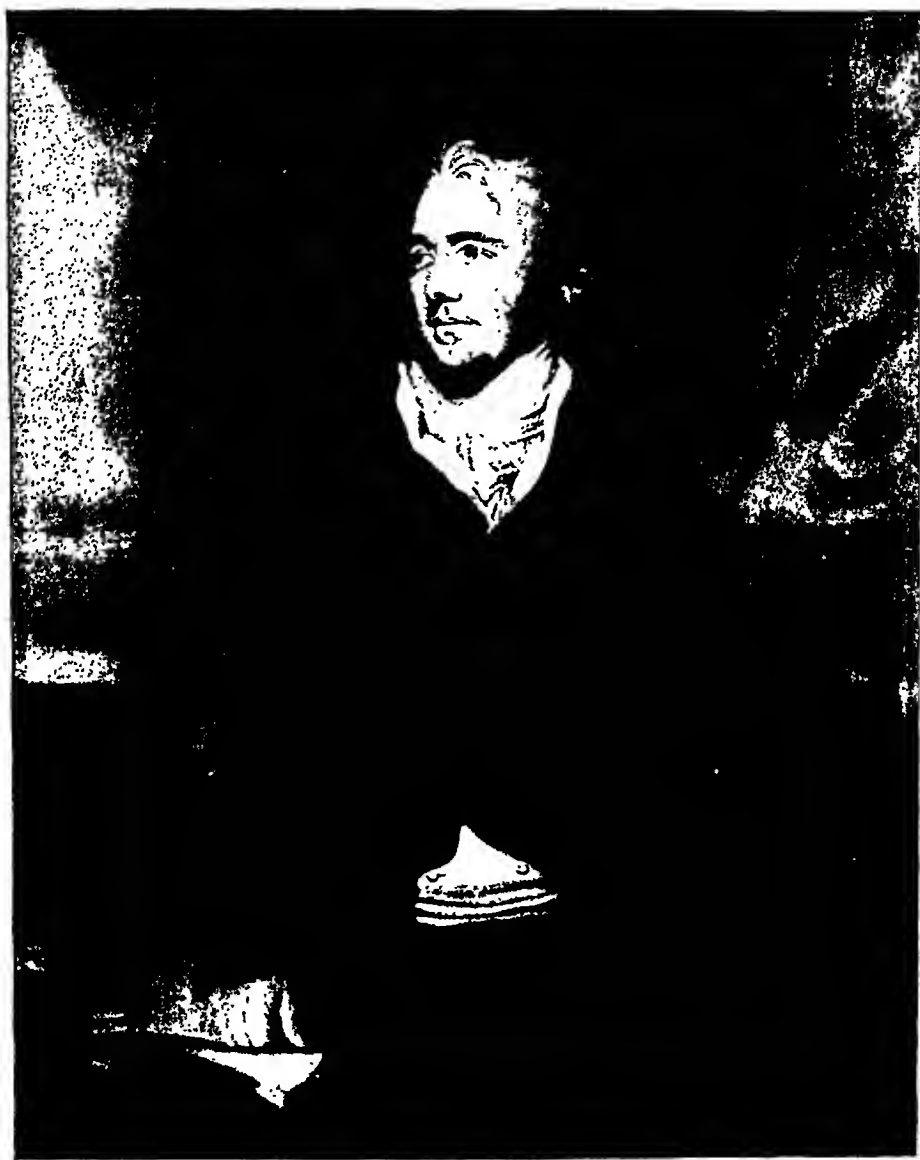
Via Madras,
per *John*
packet,
15th July.

Do. Do. Besides a letter from the Secret Committee and enclosure, both dated 24th March.

Via Bombay,
16th July.

2. The letters of the Prince Stadtholder, mentioned to accompany the dispatches that arrived here on the 5th of July, were subsequently received at Fort St. George by the *John* packet on the 14th of the same month.

3. Without waiting for the arrival of the letters from the Stadtholder, we immediately resolved, upon the receipt of the orders referred to, that measures should be taken for securing possession of Trincomale and Cochin in the mode prescribed. This resolution, as far as regarded Trincomalee, was communicated to the Presidency of Fort St. George, with an intimation that the execution of it should not be deferred from any difficulties in their nature surmountable, and it was particularly noticed to them that every conciliatory proposition should precede the employment of force or an intimation of having recourse to it. With respect to Cochin, the resolutions of this Government were at our desire communicated through the Commander in Chief to the Commanding Officer in Malabar, and the co-operation of the Supravisor was also required.



Robert Hobart

Dutch and French, appears to us to stand in opposition to the principle [by] which the admission of our troops is granted; and if the island should hereafter be restored to the Dutch, may, as we fear, subject us to the imputation of disregarding an ally. If, on the contrary, the possession of the island should remain with the English, a treaty might hereafter have been made with every advantage of previous information as to the relative situation of the contracting parties.

11. Impressed with these sentiments, if the measure were still open to qualification, we thought it expedient to suggest the following principles for regulating the treaty with the King of Candia: that if for the purpose of obtaining possession of Trincomale or eventually of the other Dutch possessions in Ceylon, or to secure the possession when obtained, the assistance or even neutrality of the King of Candia were essential, a treaty with him under such circumstances, if his neutrality or co-operation could not be otherwise obtained, would be expedient; and the instructions for the execution of the measure should be provisionally formed by these considerations. The other measures adopted in consequence of the instructions from Europe are as follows.

12. In conformity to a proposition from Lord Hobart and with the concurrence of Commodore Rainier, troops have been sent from Fort St. George to take possession of Malacca. This measure has received our approbation. And as we learned from Madras that, in consequence of a requisition from the Nizam for the return of two battalions stipulated by treaty, the native troops proposed to be employed in this expedition had been withheld under the authority of the opinions of Commodore Rainier and Colonel Brathwaite that the service might be executed without them, with a view to secure possession of this important post when acquired, we have exerted our endeavours to send a battalion of Bengal sepoys there in conformity to the wishes of the Madras Government; and we have the satisfaction to inform you that Captain Ludowick Grant has prevailed with the battalion under his command to undertake this service. We are now preparing measures for their embarkation, which we trust will not be delayed beyond the 15th of the ensuing month. Considering the prejudices of the Bengal sepoys to naval expeditions, unfortunately confirmed by the loss of the troops sent to Bencoolen in the *Europa*, and the unfavorable season of the year, the acquiescence of the native corps under the command of Captain Grant is highly creditable to themselves and honorable to him, by whose persuasions only their compliance has been obtained.

13. The propriety of communicating the orders of the Prince Stadtholder to the superior Government at Batavia, with a detail of the situation of affairs in Holland, and offers of protection against any attempts of the French, equally occurred to us and to the Presidency of Fort St. George, who were in possession of the Prince's letters, and by whom the communication has been made; and Major McDonald has been entrusted with the charge of it.

Cons. 6th July.
7th August.

14. In Bengal, possession has been taken of Chinsurah and its dependencies in the name of His Britannick Majesty.
Cons. 17th July.
24th Ditto.
31st " flag.
14th August.

15. The Director and Council of this settlement did not think themselves bound to comply with the invitation and requisition founded upon the orders of the Stadtholder ; and as we did not deem ourselves authorized to dispense with the execution of the official instructions, after full consideration of them, we were under the necessity of sending a small body of troops to take possession of Chinsurah, and the Dutch in consequence consider themselves as prisoners of war, entitled to a subsistence. The instructions respecting public and private property and all other points have been particularly attended to.

16. Mr. Birch, who is Superintendant of Chandernagore, has been appointed Commissioner for Chinsurah and its dependencies with orders to conduct the administration of those places, after positive and repeated refusals on the part of the Director and Council of Chinsurah to carry it on themselves.

17. The Superintendant of Prince of Wales Island has been advised of the situation of Holland, and received instructions to be upon his guard against the possible designs of the Dutch to disturb our possessions at that place. Similar notice has been transmitted to Bencoolen.

18. Upon general principles of consistency, the orders for securing possession of the Dutch settlements ought to have extended to that of Padang and its dependencies ; but as we were ignorant of the force of the Dutch at that settlement, and as we did not deem it advisable that any part of the troops stationed at Bencoolen should be detached, we directed that no operations should be undertaken against the Dutch settlements on the West Coast without our further orders.

19. The Government of Fort St. George have taken possession of the Dutch settlement of Pulicat on terms of capitulation, which we have confirmed. The Dutch Chief of Surat has admitted the British troops into the factory under his authority without any demur.

Cons. 7th August.
Cons. 14th August.

20. Such are the most important measures which have been pursued in compliance with the orders from Europe, and at present it does not occur to us that the execution of them can be extended. We much doubt if the Government of Fort St. George can spare a force sufficient for obtaining possession of the island of Ceylon in the event of resistance ; but if the exertions made for securing Trincomale, Cochin and Malacca should prove successful, the most important objects of your instructions will have been obtained.

21. The reduced state of the European troops in India has been particularly pointed out to your notice ; and as they will still be further diminished by the prosecution of the present expeditions above detailed, we deemed it a matter of great exigency that the deficiency should be supplied by an augmentation of the native troops both at Fort St. George and Bombay ; and those Presidencies have been accordingly authorized to make the proposed augmentation.

22. In consequence of an intimation from Lord Hobart through the Governor General for a detachment of artillery to supply the deficiency in that corps occasioned by the late expeditions, we determined that it should be sent to Fort St. George to the greatest practicable extent ; and a company of artillery, with two lascars, are in readiness for immediate embarkation.

SECRET LETTER DATED 31 OCTOBER 1795

Surrender of Trincomali and Fort Osnaburgh—Conflict of views between the Governments of Bengal and Madras on the proposed treaty of perpetual alliance with the King of Kandy—Conquest of Malacca: mutiny of the Bengal battalion ordered to proceed to Malacca—Capture of the Dutch settlements in India: siege of Cochin—Improvements in the defences of Bombay—The Swiss force under Comte de Meuron in the Dutch service joins the British—Great hopes of the capture of the Dutch settlements in Ceylon.

SECRET DEPARTMENT

TO the Secret Committee of the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. In our address of the 18th August by the *Mary* packet, we had the honor to inform you of the measures taken to that period in execution of your instructions respecting the Dutch settlements in India, and particularly concerning Trincomale, Malacca and Cochin. A copy of that address accompanies this letter; and we have also the pleasure of transmitting you a continuation of our proceedings in this Department to the latest date, by which you will be advised of the complete success of the expeditions against Trincomale and Malacca.

2. With regard to the former, however, you will have received full information, as well of the surrender of Trincomale and Fort Osnaburgh on the 26th and 31st August as of the negotiations and military operations which preceded, from the dispatches of the Government of Fort St. George by the *Mary*, if not from those of Commodore Rainer and Colonel Stuart by the *Pitt* and *Royal Admiral*. We shall, therefore, confine ourselves to subsequent transactions on the island of Ceylon, and to the deputation noticed in our last address for entering into a treaty with the King of Candia.

3. Colonel Stuart was engaged after the surrender of Trincomale and Fort Osnaburgh in repairing the damage done to their fortifications and putting them in a proper state of defence. A detachment under the command of Major Frazer was sent, however, on the *Heroine* against Batticalo; and we have the pleasure of acquainting you that it surrendered on the 18th September without opposition. Copies of Colonel Stuart's and Major Frazer's advices on this occasion are recorded in our proceedings of the 12th October.

4. We have been recently advised of the surrender of Jaffanapatam on the 29th ultimo, and for particulars of this important intelligence, beg to refer you to Colonel Stuart's dispatches accompanying a letter from the Government of Fort St. George of the same date.

23. In conformity to your orders of the 24th March, we directed the Government of Bombay to communicate to the Viceroy of Goa the apprehensions suggested respecting the attempts of the French against that settlement, with an offer of all practicable assistance, and with a request that the Viceroy would acquaint them what aid he deemed necessary for the protection of Goa. They were further instructed to grant such assistance as might be applied for, provided it could be spared without danger to the Presidency of Bombay, but not otherwise. By advices lately received from that Presidency, it appears impracticable to detach any troops from it without endangering its safety. The Commander of His Majesty's ships has also been advised of your instructions respecting Goa.

24. From the proceedings referred to under the different subjects noticed in this address, and from the copies of other documents accompanying it, the Secret Committee will receive the fullest information on all points which we have now submitted.

25. In the mode of executing the orders communicated to us, you will observe the strictest attention to the terms and spirit of them; and in conformity to this assertion, we thought it incumbent upon us to notice an apparent omission in the orders from the Presidency of Fort St. George to the officers commanding the expeditions against Trincomale and Malacca relating to the disposal of the captured property, in case those settlements should be reduced by force, as pointed out in the letter from His Majesty's Secretary of State of the 19th of February. You will also perceive many other matters of too little importance to be particularly detailed in this address noticed in our proceedings and in our instructions to the other Presidencies.

26. It may, however, be proper to mention that we addressed Commodore Rainier, referring him to the Governor in Council at Fort St. George for the communication of our sentiments on the subject of the advices received from the Secretary of State, and assuring His Excellency that we should be happy to afford him every co-operation and assistance in our power. We also informed him that we had desired the Governor in Council at Bombay to hold the Company's frigate and every other armed vessel in the Company's service on that establishment that might not be indispensibly required for the protection of the shipping and trade ready to attend such orders as he might judge it expedient to give respecting them.

27. A copy of our correspondence with the Commodore goes enclosed.

[28] We have addressed the Honorable Court of Directors from the Commercial Department on the subject of the instructions communicated through your Secretary under date the 13th of March, and forwarding the resolutions of the Honorable Court of the 11th of that month.

Fort William,
the 18th August, 1795.

We have the honor to be,
&c.

(Per Mary.)

to relinquish or transfer the responsibility attached to them, the only answer we could return was necessarily to this effect.

9. In consequence of the capitulation with the *Compte de Meuron* for the transfer of his regiment to the British service, advice of which was received from Mr. Cleghorn, by the Government of Fort St. George on the 17th September, that Government, in concert with Commodore Rainer, determined on the expediency of a second deputation to Columbo with a view to sounding¹ the intentions of the Dutch Government and Council in consequence of the above capitulation, and to endeavour to obtain the early possession of the whole of the Dutch settlements on the island of Ceylon without hazard of the various contingencies to which an expedition against Columbo and Point de Galle must be liable, the injury these fortifications would probably undergo from a siege, the expence of repairs and possible loss of men, and the delay which would unavoidably take place under the near approach of the monsoon. Major Agnew, who had given general satisfaction on his former deputation, was accordingly again deputed for the above purposes; and we entirely

concurréd in the propriety of his mission, as well as in his instructions and the letter addressed to the Governor in Council of Columbo on the occasion, which are recorded in our proceedings of the 16th October.

10. We, at the same time, received a further intimation from the Government of Fort St. George that, as the orders from His Majesty's Secretary of State had particular reference to the Malacca Islands, their President suggested to Commodore Rainer the expediency of sending a force for the purpose of making an attempt upon some of those islands; and the Commodore having offered to proceed himself in this service with the squadron under his command, they had come to the resolution of fitting out a detachment consisting of the two flank companies of the 2d European Battalion and a complete native battalion to proceed to Malacca, and having completely secured that place, to go on to Amboyna.

11. Having no information which authorized us to expect the early arrival of a naval reinforcement in India (although we had been advised by Mr. Pringle of the expedition against the Cape of Good Hope), we could not but express our doubts of the propriety of undertaking a distant expedition which would employ the whole squadron under the command of Commodore Rainer, and leave the Malabar and Coromandel coasts unprotected. But, independently of this objection, we were of opinion that the object of the greatest importance to the British interests in India is the acquisition of all the Dutch factories in the island of Ceylon, and that all other expeditions which might protract the attainment of this object, or diminish our power of securing possession when obtained, ought for the present to be deferred.

12. We accordingly communicated these sentiments to the Governor in Council of Fort St. George, and requested they might be made known to Commodore Rainer, adding that we were aware of the particular reference of His Majesty's Secretary of State to the Malacca Islands, and were equally anxious to carry his instructions into execution in their fullest practicable extent. But amidst the various objects to which they point, the limitation of our means prescribes the necessity of selecting those which are important in

5. Our proceedings of the annexed dates contain our further correspondence with the Government of Fort St. George respecting the treaty proposed by them with the King of Candia; and as it has been too much extended for insertion in this place, we beg leave to refer to the correspondence itself for a detail of the arguments urged by the Governor in Council in support of the measures adopted by him, and of the grounds on which we are still of opinion that, however well intended, and although, as has since appeared, the ratification of the treaty was made subject to our approval, the proposition for entering into a treaty of perpetual alliance with the King of Candia, at the time and under the circumstances of our situation with the Dutch when it was resolved upon, was adopted with too little qualification; that it would have been sufficient, in the first instance, to have opened a friendly intercourse with the King of Candia, deputing a Commissioner to him for this purpose; that if any treaty with him were indispensibly necessary, it should have been provisional and commensurate to the actual emergency only; and that with respect to a treaty having objects distinct from those of obtaining and securing the possession of Trincomalee or the other parts of Ceylon held by the Dutch, it ought, in prudence, to have been deferred to a future period.

6. These principles were communicated to the Madras Government for their guidance. If the measure admitted of qualification, they were suggested not only by the restrictions of the legislature, but by the considerations implied in them; and if, as we conceived, we might have expected every degree of assistance from the King of Candia without the obligation of a treaty, that he was sufficiently disposed to an amicable intercourse with the English, and that such an intercourse might have been extended and improved so as to become the foundation of a future treaty, formed with all the advantages of certainty as to our relative situations and interests, the resolution adopted by the Madras Government must be deemed premature. It is easy to foresee a situation of affairs in which it may not be attended with any advantage, but on the contrary may lead to hostile discussions involving the necessity of deserting a new ally, or of supporting him by force of arms.

7. The qualifications which we suggested appeared to us calculated to meet any degree of emergency, but the proposition for a treaty had been actually made to the King of Candia before the receipt of them in time to prevent it; and we cannot but express our concern at the obvious embarrassment imposed upon us by this measure of the Government at Fort St. George.

8. By the correspondence referred to, you will be advised of a further proposition submitted to us by the Government of Fort St. George under a prospect of a successful issue to Mr. Andrew[s]'s negotiations with the King of Candia, *vizt.*, that with a view of guarding against delay we should invest them with a discretionary authority to ratify any treaty agreed upon between the King of Candia and their Ambassador, provided such treaty should appear to them compatible with the publick good, and consistent with the objects they had in view in opening a negotiation with that prince. Being of opinion that a compliance with this proposition would be a deliberate violation of the statute, and that it is not in our power, whilst we hold our present stations,

and who, as mentioned in our last address, was charged with a letter from Lord Hobart to the Governor General of Batavia, has arrived in the *Suffolk* tender in Bengal, having in a conference with Major Brown judged it advisable, from the information he received at Malacca, to relinquish his intention of proceeding to Batavia, and leave the letter for the Dutch Governor General to be forwarded through a medium proposed by Mr. Couperus, which he conceived would equally benefit the public service.

17. The decision on this subject is properly referable in the first instance to the Madras Government, by whom he was deputed.

18. You were advised in our last address of our intention to send a battalion of Bengal sepoys to Malacca with a view to secure the possession of this important post, and that Captain Ludowick Grant had prevailed with the battalion under his command (the 15th) to undertake this service. It was with great concern we afterwards learnt from the Commander in Chief that the above battalion, which for fourteen days had shewn every inclination to embark cheerfully for Malacca, had since manifested a contrary disposition. The General added his opinion that any further attempt to send the battalion^a on that service would not be advisable, in which we entirely concurred; and seeing no prospect of being able to send any other in sufficient time, we advised the Government of Madras accordingly, leaving it to them to reinforce the troops sent on the Malacca expedition, under such protection of His Majesty's ships as might be deemed sufficient.

19. We, at the same time, resolved to add a fourth battalion to three battalions of sepoys, which, in compliance with an application from the Government of Fort St. George, we had determined to send round to that Presidency as soon as they could proceed from hence by land, and which we hope will be able to commence their march about the 20th of next month. The application from the Governor in Council of Fort St. George for this supply to their military establishment, in consequence of the different detachments from it, being recorded with our Political Proceedings, a copy of it forms a number in the accompanying list of packet. We have since, at the suggestion of the Government of Fort St. George, resolved that two of these battalions shall proceed, after their arrival at Masulipatam, to relieve the detachment at Hyderabad, and that the company of artillery sent from hence to the Coast shall join them at Masulipatam for the same purpose.

20. We further transmit copy of a letter from the Superintendent at Prince of Wales Island containing intelligence, dated the 16th August, of the French national frigates *Sybelle* and *Prudente*, the former of 44, the latter of 36 guns, with the courier *Cowette* of 16 guns, having been cruising in the Straits of Malacca, where they had captured many valuable prizes. This intelligence, which had also been communicated to the Government of Fort St. George, induced them, previous to the receipt of our letter above mentioned, to determine on sending two companies of Europeans on the Company's ships *Hillsborough* and *Minerva* to support the expedition against Malacca, and in concurrence with Commodore Rainer to dispatch with them His Majesty's ship the *Heroine* for the same purpose. Subsequent information of the return of the French frigates towards Mauritius, made it unnecessary, however, to carry

the first degree, and having secured these, to proceed to the attainment of more remote and less important objects. That admitting the proposed force to be sufficient for the conquest of the Molucca Islands, it might require considerable reinforcements, or the detention of His Majesty's ships, to preserve them; and, on the whole, therefore, whilst Dutch settlements in the island of Ceylon remain to be acquired, and in the present uncertainty as to the arrival of more ships of war in India, the risk attending the departure and detention of the squadron on a distant service is not, in our opinion, authorized by the probable advantages of success.

13. Since writing the above, we have received advices from Admiral Elphinstone², with copies of his instructions and a narrative of his proceedings to the 11th of August; but from the non-arrival of the troops intended to assist in the expedition against the Cape, it was uncertain when he would be at liberty to proceed to any part of India.

14. You have already been advised of the expedition fitted out from Madras against Malacca consisting of a detachment under the command of Major Archibald Brown, assisted by His Majesty's ships *the Orpheus* and *Resistance* under the command of Captain Newcome. The dispatches from Major Brown, recorded on our proceedings of the annexed date, will convey to you full information of the successful result of this expedition, which, after some discussion with the Governor Mr. Couperus and a shew of resistance which made it necessary to land the troops with two field pieces on the night of the 17th August, terminated in the complete acquisition of Malacca and its dependencies, with a Dutch armed ship, which it was found necessary to take possession of to facilitate the debarkation of the troops. We shall transmit a copy of the articles of capitulation, a separate number in the packet; and beg leave to refer to the papers already noticed for a detail of the forces, guns and others found in the garrison as well as the money, merchandize and other property in the treasury and warehouses, and the accounts delivered by Mr. Couperus of the different establishments of public officers, the funds for paying them, and the annual profit and loss of the settlement, as stated in the books of the Government, from 1783 to 1793.

15. In the expectation of hearing from Fort St. George we have not yet deemed it proper to pass any resolutions on the different points noticed in Major Brown's dispatches, which are addressed to the Commander in Chief, and shall only add at present that it had been judged prudent to carry into effect an arrangement some time since directed from Batavia for the restoration of Rio, which, from the force and expence necessary to maintain it, has always been a losing concern to the Dutch, to Sultan Mahomed, King of Johor and Pahan, whose good will and future assistance to the British trade in his ports are expected to result from our concurrence in a measure so satisfactory to him, to promote which, as well as to bring away the European garrison at Rio, Captain Newcome had proceeded thither with the *Orpheus* and *Resistance*, and had taken with him a complimentary letter to the Sultan congratulating him on the restoration of Rio and expressing a desire of cultivating his future friendship.

16. Major McDonald, who also accompanied the expedition to Malacca,

respecting the completion of such fortifications and the mode of providing the garrison which Colonel Campbell had recommended.

25. We consulted the Commander in Chief on the subjects of the above letter, as well as on other letters received from the Government of Bombay containing their Chief Engineer's report on the fortification and a return of their native troops, with the augmentation we had authorized of 136 sepoys to each battalion, for the particulars of which, and a detail of our instructions in reply, we must necessarily refer to our proceedings of the annexed dates. We shall, however, notice the most material parts of the latter in this place.

26. And first, with regard to the two battalions in Malabar, we entirely concurred in opinion with the Commander in Chief that it would be, by no means, proper to withdraw this force from the Malabar Province until the fort of Cochin should be in our possession. We requested, therefore, that the orders given to this effect might be immediately revoked, and lest our letter should be too late, wrote at the same time to the Supravisor of Malabar to notify our resolution to the Commanding Officer in that province.

27. It appeared to us very advisable that a local corps should be forthwith raised at Surat for the duties of that place, which would soon add the battalion there to the garrison at Bombay, then calculated to consist altogether, including the augmentation of the native battalions, the battalion from Surat and recruits for the eight battalions in Malabar (who are collected to the northward of Goa and assembled at Bombay), of near six thousand men, or, as more precisely stated in the Commander in Chief's minute, 5,813.

28. We further expressed our opinion that in time of war some hundreds of supernumerary recruits should be in training at Bombay for the purpose of filling the vacancies occasioned by casualties in the native battalions in Malabar.

29. By these means, and by raising any requisite number of lascars who are easily procured at Bombay, it appeared to us that the garrison there would soon be respectable; but, for the further security of the place, we desired particular attention to certain measures pointed out by the Commander in Chief for clearing the explanade and other parts of all houses, trees and other impediments.

30. You will observe from our letter to Bombay of the 18th September that we are clearly of opinion with the Commander in Chief, the fortifications there ought to be completed according to the plan of the late Sir Archibald Campbell, excepting an alteration in the site of the advanced redoubt suggested by General Neilson, whenever it may be thought expedient to continue the works; but that, for the present, no new works of magnitude should be constructed beyond such precautions as the immediate defence of the place may require.

31. Having already acquainted you that Chinsurah and its dependencies have been taken possession of in the name of His Britannic Majesty, and that the refusal of the Director and Council to carry on the administration of the Dutch settlements in Bengal had obliged us to appoint a Commissioner for this purpose, it is sufficient to observe that we have since endeavored to

this intention into execution; and we are happy to add that part of their prizes were recaptured by the *Resistance* and other vessels, as you will be more particularly informed by the copy of Mr. Manington's letter already referred to.

21. We now return to the southern peninsula and coast of Malabar, and have the pleasure of acquainting you that Tutacoryn, with its dependent factories, as well the Dutch factory of Kilkary in the Cons. October 9th. Ramnad District, were taken possession of by Mr. Powney, the Collector of that district, in the beginning of September without opposition.

22. Major Petric, with a detachment of the King's and Company's troops, arrived before Cochin on the 2d of August; but the Governor Mr. Van Spall having decidedly refused to admit them, it was necessary to send for a battering train and stores from Cananore to form a blockade. A reinforcement to the original detachment was also found requisite for the siege; and the delay occasioned by these measures has prevented our yet receiving advice of the surrender of the Dutch settlement at this place. There can, however, be little doubt of its early acquisition, especially as by a letter from Mr. Cleghorn, who arrived at Tellicherry on the 6th September, we understand that, with the advice and concurrence of the Compté de Meuron, the latter's *aid-de-camp* Captain Ballé was immediately dispatched to Cochin with the Compté's orders to the Swiss officers of his regiment to quit the service of the present usurped Government of Holland, and to put themselves, with the troops under their command, under the orders of the officer commanding the British forces before that place.

23. In continuation of the 23d paragraph of our last address respecting Goa, we beg leave to refer to a letter from the Viceroy to the Governor in Council of Bombay, and to a letter and enclosure from Cons. 11th } Sept-
18th } mber. Mr. Migiul de Limae Souza deputed by him to that Presidency, by which you will be pleased to observe that though the Viceroy expresses a grateful sense of the offer of assistance made to him in compliance with your orders, he considers the state of Goa, under the protection of the military and naval force attached to it, to be such as to obviate any immediate danger, except from an armament of greater strength than he supposes the French can at present find means to send against it.

24. You have been already advised of the impracticability of detaching any troops from Bombay without endangering the safety of that settlement. The Bombay Government have since informed us that under the intelligence of the French having formed designs against the British Empire in India, communicated to them in your letter of the 24th March last, they were of opinion the present weak state of the garrison of Bombay rendered it unavoidably necessary to bring two battalions of sepoys from the province of Malabar and four companies of sepoys from Surat (the latter to be replaced with locals as in the year 1790), and that they had taken measures accordingly. They further acquainted us that they had desired their Chief Engineer to report what part of the fortifications remained to be completed according to the plan delivered by Colonel Campbell in 1768, and requested our instructions

October are recorded with Mr. Cleghorn's correspondence accompanying them in our proceedings of the annexed date; and we shall, Cons. 5th October... of course, pay due attention to the instructions contained in them, when advised of the regiment to which they refer having agreed to enter into the British service on the terms held out to them.

36. We shall also be careful to observe the instructions of the Secret Committee relative to the dispatch of the Company's homeward bound ships contained in your letters of the 25th of March and 8th April 1795, which we had the honor to receive by the *Lord Thurlow*, together with copies of your letters of the 20th February, 3d and 24th March 1795, which have been already acknowledged.

Fort William,
31st October, 1795.

We have the honor to be,
&c., &c., &c.

(*Per Surprise.*)

57.

SECRET LETTER DATED 20 NOVEMBER 1795.

Capitulation of Cochin—Expedition against Colombo—Madras Government's treaty with the King of Kandy not approved—Death of the Peshwa and its probable effects—Grain sent to England to relieve scarcity in Europe.

TO the Secret Committee of the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorable Sirs,

1. The sailing of the *Surprise* having been delayed, we are enabled to add to our address of the 31st ultimo the capitulation of the fort of Cochin on the night of the 19th ultimo. Copies of Major Petrie's letter to the Commander in Chief containing the terms of capitulation and all the particulars we have yet received of this event will be transmitted herewith for your information.

2. In consequence of this intelligence, we have, at the recommendation of the Commander in Chief, resolved that His Majesty's 77th Regiment, two battalions of native infantry, one company of artillery and two companys of lascars shall be ordered from Malabar to co-operate with the Madras troops against Columbo. We have accordingly sent instructions to Malabar and Bombay for the immediate assemblage of the above troops at Cochin with the requisite tonnage and provisions for four months, to wait there the receipt of orders from the Governor in Council of Fort St. George in consequence of the arrangement that may be concerted with the Commander of His Majesty's squadron for the attack of Columbo.

3. We have at the same time taken measures in consequence of an application from the Government of Fort St. George to provide tonnage for the conveyance of troops and stores to be sent from that Presidency on the intended

establish a plan of administration, calculated to secure the rights and promote the satisfaction of the inhabitants in the manner directed by your instructions, as far as the nature of their situation will admit.

32. The accompanying proceedings will furnish you with full information of the measures we have taken for the above purpose, as well as for the disposal of such of the public property found at Chinsurah as could not be kept in deposit without risk of loss or damage. No public property was found in the Dutch factories at Calcapore and Patna; but we thought it proper to direct the Magistrates of Moorsliedabad and Patna to require [acquire] possession of them as forming part of the Dutch settlements, and they are now under the general superintendence of Mr. Birch, the Commissioner at Chinsurah.

33. You will observe from the proceedings referred to that we had doubts whether a considerable quantity of spices claimed by Mr. Van Citters as his private property had not been fictitiously sold to him to avoid their seizure on the expected surrender of the settlement to His Britannick Majesty. But, after consulting the Advocate General on the legality and validity of the sale, and making such further enquiry as was in our power to ascertain whether the usual forms had been observed, as well as whether, from the price stipulated to be paid, it appeared to be a *bona fide* transaction, we were of opinion that there were no sufficient grounds of suspicion or means of proof to authorize a seizure of the spices in question as public property, and therefore ordered them to be delivered up to Mr. Van Citters. The leading facts in this transaction are these, that the spices were actually sold some days previous to the arrival of your Secret Dispatches on the 5th July, that the usual nature of the sale had been made, and that the prices paid for the spices were in general higher than at former sales, and that part of them had been resold, and whatever suspicion might attach to the transaction from some circumstances attending it, it appears to us to [be] impossible to obtain proof sufficient to pronounce the sales collusive and the spices public property.

34. We have noticed the arrival of Mr. Cleghorn at Tellicherry on the 6th September. On that date he addressed a letter to Lord Hobart, advising him of the commission and dispatches with which he was entrusted, of the resolution formed by him, in concurrence with the Compte de Meuron, to depute the latter's *aid-de-camp* with the Compte's orders to the Swiss officers of his regiment at Cochin, and of his own intention to proceed immediately to Ceylon with the Compte, whose presence he conceived might be of use in effecting the speedy reduction of that island. He, at the same time, transmitted letters from the Compte and himself to Colonel de Meuron, Commandant of the regiment of that name, to be forwarded to him if thought useful; and, in a separate dispatch of the same date, sent the letters with which he was charged from Mr. Secretary Dundas to Lord Hobart and Sir Robert Abercromby, the former dated the 17th February, the latter the 14th April, accompanied by copies of the capitulation entered into between Mr. Cleghorn on the part of His Britannick Majesty, and the Compte de Meuron, for the service of the latter's regiment at Ceylon, and other papers connected therewith.

35. These papers which we received from Fort St. George on the 4th

the application from Admiral Elphinstone which induced us to determine on sending this supply, and we shall hereafter furnish the Honorable Court with a statement of the whole of the expence attending it.

10. The delay of this dispatch enables us further to transmit you copy of a letter from the Assistant at Poonah communicating the death of the Peshwa, which took place on the 27th ultimo, and is stated to have been occasioned by an accident—a fall from an upper apartment. Bajee Row, the eldest son of the late Rogonaut Row, is the nearest of kin to the deceased; but, from the disinclination of the Minister towards him, it appears doubtful whether the succession would be declared in his favor or in that of his younger brother Chinnajee Appa. We are not aware that this event can lead to any consequences injurious to your interest, but in the contrary, a possible reduction of the power and influence of the Poonah Minister, or a disunion among the different branches of the Mahratta State which may eventually arise from a disputed succession.

11. A copy of the Governor General's letter to the Resident at Poonah in answer to his communication of the Peshwa's death will be sent for your information.

12. Since writing the above, we have been honored, by an overland dispatch forwarded from Bombay, with your instructions of the 7th July, 1795, relative to the scarcity of grain in Europe, and directing a supply of ten thousand tons of wheat and rice for Great Britain from this country.

13. Immediately on the receipt of these instructions on the 16th instant, we took the necessary measures for carrying them into execution, in the mode which appeared to us most consistent with secrecy and expedition; and to save time as well as to convey to you the most satisfactory information on this head, we have the honor to transmit you a copy of our proceedings on the subject, together with letter referred to in them from the Board of Trade.

14. We have also judged it proper to convey information of the scarcity of grain in Europe to Admiral Elphinstone, or in his absence to the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's sea or land forces at the Cape, in the hope that a considerable supply of corn may be obtained from thence. A copy of the Governor General's letters to the effect will be transmitted for your perusal.

15. The only further material circumstances we have to communicate is the seizure of a vessel under Portuguese colours which, from information there is every reason to deem credible, appears to have been employed early in the present year in conveying naval and military stores purchased at Pondicherrey to the Mauritius. In consequence of this information, the Governor General ordered the Captain Mr. F. A. Carminia, his officers and the ships to be arrested, and the paper belonging to it to be secured. An examination is now making, the result of which will be hereafter communicated to you. But in the mean time we have the honor to transmit copies of the Governor General's minute and of the letter addressed by him on this occasion to the Viceroy at Goa.

Fort William,
20th November, 1795.

We have the honor to be, &c.

(Per Surprise.)

expedition, which, in the event of Admiral Elphinstone's arrival in India, may, we hope, be undertaken immediately after the change of the monsoon. We cannot, however, but express our concern at being deprived of the eventual assistance, protection and co-operation of Commodore Rainier's squadron in the important service in contemplation.

4. By the copies of dispatches from the Madras Government by the *Mary* packet, we observe that you have been advised by them of the surrender of Manar, of the result of the second deputation to Columbo, of the transfer of the regiment of Meuron to the British service, and of their resolutions on the terms of capitulation granted to the Governor of Malacca. We shall, therefore, only add on the latter subject that our sentiments entirely corresponded with those of the Governor in Council of Fort St. George.

5. To guard against accidents, however, we have directed that copies of the letters we have received from Fort St. George on the above subjects be transmitted to you, if possible with this dispatch, together with copies of our letter in answer.

6. We have also the honor to lay before you copy of a minute from the Governor General respecting a preliminary treaty entered into with the King of Candia by Mr. Andrews on the part of the Company and request your particular attention to it.

7. If we had been consulted on the resolution for entering into a treaty with the King of Candia, previous to the dispatch of the letter to His Majesty by the Madras Government containing a proposal to this effect, we should have decided against the measure as, in our opinion, unnecessary and ill-timed. We should have thought it sufficient to make an offer of the friendship of the Company to the King, and to have solicited his in return, trusting to a reciprocation of friendship for establishing an intercourse that might lead to connections of a more permanent nature, if circumstances should render it advisable. As the precipitation with which the measure was adopted did not admit of the interposition of our sentiments, we could only suggest such qualifications as appeared to us calculated to meet legal objections to it and eventual exigency; but they were not adopted.

8. As it was impossible for us to approve the terms of the preliminary treaty as they now stand for the reasons detailed in the Governor General's minute, and which we trust will have your approbation, it only remained for us to consider the most advisable mode of extricating ourselves and the Madras Government, if possible, from the embarrassments created by their conduct; and we have the fullest reliance that the instructions to them which were exactly in the terms of the Governor General's minute will appear to you well adopted to the various considerations which prescribed them, particularly that we have been attentive to explain the conduct of the Presidency of Fort St. George to the King of Candia in a mode calculated to preserve their credit and influence with him.

9. We shall likewise transmit you copy of a letter written by the Governor General to Sir G. K. Elphinstone by one of two vessels taken up by us to convey a supply of rice and rum for the use of His Majesty's squadron and land forces at the Cape, or eventually for St. Helena. You have been already advised of

proceedings on the subject of your instructions above mentioned to the present period.

3. On other subjects we shall have the honor of addressing you at an early date by the Indiamen. We shall here observe only that preparations are making for an expedition against Columbo as soon as practicable, that we have yet no advices of the successful issue of the operations at the Cape of Good Hope, and consequently know not when to expect the arrival in India of the squadron under Admiral Elphinstone.

Fort William,
December 15th, 1795.

We have the honor to be &c.

(Per Nonsuch.)

SECRET LETTER DATED 25 NOVEMBER 1795

Transmission of copies of proceedings.

SECRET DEPARTMENT

TO the Secret Committee of the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorab!e Sirs,

1. With our letter of the 20th instant by the *Surprise*, we have had the honor of transmitting you a copy of our proceedings on your instructions of the 7th July (received here on the 16th instant) directing a supply of grain from this country in consequence of the scarcity in Great Britain.

2. As our proceedings on this subject involve several points of consequence submitted to your consideration; and as you will also be anxious to know what supplies of grain may be expected from this country, we think it necessary to transmit you a duplicate of our proceedings by an overland dispatch with a continuation of them to this date.

3. We, at the same time, have to inform you of the death of the Paishwa, occasioned by a fall from an upper apartment on the 27th ultimo, though you will probably have received previous intelligence of this event from the Government of Bombay. We have already observed in our letter of the 20th instant that we have no reason to think it will be attended with any consequences injurious to your interests.

Fort William,
the 25th November, 1795.

We have &c.

(Overland.)

SECRET LETTER DATED 15 DECEMBER 1795

*Preparations for the Colombo expedition.***T**O the Secret Committee of the Honorable Court of Directors.

Honorab!e Sirs,

1. By the *Bellona* we have been honored with a duplicate of your instructions of the 7th July, 1795, which had before reached us overland as advised in a letter of the 20th ultimo by the *Surprise*, and in a dispatch sent to be forwarded from Bombay under date the 20th ultimo.

2. We have now the honor of transmitting you by the ship *Nonsuch*, freighted with part of the grains required from this Presidency, duplicate of our letters of the above dates, together with a copy of the whole of our

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1.

DRAFT TREATY OF GUARANTEE AS PROPOSED BY LORD CORNWALLIS*

Draft of a treaty of defensive alliance between the Hon'ble United English East India Company, the Peishwa Seway Madarow Narain Pundit Purdhaun Behader and the Nawaub Nizam Ally Khan Asof Jah Behader for the clear ascertainment of the meaning and extent of the 13th article of the Treaty of Poonah, dated 1st June, 1790, corresponding with....., and of the 10th article of the Treaty of Pangul, dated 4th July, 1790, corresponding with 20th *Showal* 1204 *Hejeree*, to the end of enforcing a faithful observance of the Treaty of Seringapatam, dated 18th March, 1792, and for the mutual maintenance of the contracting powers and their allies and dependants in secure possession of all the rights, interests and territories ceded to and held by them on the conclusion of the said Treaty of Seringapatam against Futteh Ally Khan, known by the denomination of Tippoo Sultaun, settled by &ca., &ca., &ca., per usual form.

Article 1st.

By the 13th article of the Treaty of Poona and by the 10th article of the Treaty of Pangul above mentioned, it is stipulated that "if after the conclusion of peace with Tippoo, he should molest or attack either of the contracting parties, the others shall join to punish him, the mode and condition of effecting which shall be hereafter settled by the contracting powers." Accordingly, it is hereby settled that, in the event of such attack or molestation occurring, the nature and ground of it shall be clearly explained by the party conceiving himself injured to the other contracting parties, who will act conformably to their mutual stipulations.

Article 2d.

The true spirit and meaning of the contracting parties by the articles of the Treaties of Poona and Pangul referred to in the 1st article of this treaty, and likewise of this treaty itself being strictly defensive, it is hereby agreed that in the event of friendly negotiation proving abortive, and it shall have appeared to the other allies, from the explanation of the nature and ground of the injury which the party conceiving himself injured shall have furnished to them according to the 1st article of this treaty, that Tippoo Sultaun is the aggressor and the party complaining the aggrieved, and not till then, the others shall unite with the aggrieved to obtain redress by force of arms; and

*Sent to Sir Charles Warre Malet, Resident at Poona, by Lord Cornwallis on 5 February, 1793. (Ed.)

APPENDIX 1.

DRAFT TREATY OF GUARANTEE AS PROPOSED BY LORD CORNWALLIS*

Draft of a treaty of defensive alliance between the Hon'ble United English East India Company, the Peishwa Seway Madarow Narain Pundit Purdhaun Behader and the Nawaub Nizam Ally Khan Asof Jah Behader for the clear ascertainment of the meaning and extent of the 13th article of the Treaty of Poonah, dated 1st June, 1790, corresponding with....., and of the 10th article of the Treaty of Pangul, dated 4th July, 1790, corresponding with 20th *Showal* 1204 *Hejeree*, to the end of enforcing a faithful observance of the Treaty of Seringapatam, dated 18th March, 1792, and for the mutual maintenance of the contracting powers and their allies and dependants in secure possession of all the rights, interests and territories ceded to and held by them on the conclusion of the said Treaty of Seringapatam against Futteh Ally Khan, known by the denomination of Tippoo Sultaun, settled by *&ca.*, *&ca.*, per usual form.

Article 1st.

By the 13th article of the Treaty of Poona and by the 10th article of the Treaty of Pangul above mentioned, it is stipulated that "if after the conclusion of peace with Tippoo, he should molest or attack either of the contracting parties, the others shall join to punish him, the mode and condition of effecting which shall be hereafter settled by the contracting powers." Accordingly, it is hereby settled that, in the event of such attack or molestation occurring, the nature and ground of it shall be clearly explained by the party conceiving himself injured to the other contracting parties, who will act conformably to their mutual stipulations.

Article 2d.

The true spirit and meaning of the contracting parties by the articles of the Treaties of Poona and Pangul referred to in the 1st article of this treaty, and likewise of this treaty itself being strictly defensive, it is hereby agreed that in the event of friendly negotiation proving abortive, and it shall have appeared to the other allies, from the explanation of the nature and ground of the injury which the party conceiving himself injured shall have furnished to them according to the 1st article of this treaty, that Tippoo Sultaun is the aggressor and the party complaining the aggrieved, and not till then, the others shall unite with the aggrieved to obtain redress by force of arms; and

*Sent to Sir Charles Warre Malet, Resident at Poona, by Lord Cornwallis on 5 February, 1793. (Ed.)



Tipu Sultan

to each other in their respective dominions the privilege of raising recruits of men, of purchasing elephants, horses, bullocks and grain, duty free.

Article 7th.

The true intent and meaning of this treaty being to guarantee each of the contracting parties conformably to the articles thereof, and not to involve them in unnecessary quarrels with Tippoo Sultaun, it is further stipulated that either of the contracting parties seeing good ground to apprehend hostile designs on the part of Tippoo Sultaun shall without delay make a full disclosure thereof to the others, who on receipt of such disclosure shall immediately caution the said Tippoo Sultaun against such designs, and shall offer their mediation to bring about an accommodation of any existing or impending disagreement, with a plain intimation of the consequence of his persevering in such hostile designs, according to the spirit and meaning of the present engagement. This treaty of defensive alliance, consisting of seven articles, being settled and concluded by &ca., &ca., &ca., it is agreed that it shall be exchanged &ca., &ca., &ca.

APPENDIX 2.

DRAFT OF A TREATY IN EXPLANATION OF THE 10TH AND 13TH ARTICLES OF THE TREATIES OF POONA AND PANGAL AS PROPOSED BY THE PESHWA.*

Treaty of confederacy for the mutual security of their sovereignties entered into between Mhadhoo Row Narrain Pundit Purdhan Bhadur, the Nabob Nizam Ally Khan Asof Jah Bhadur, and the English Company Bhadur for the particular definition of the 13th article of the Treaty of Poona and 10th article of the Treaty of Paungul to the end that the ancient territories *et cetera*, and the new one conquered from Tippoo at the time of the Treaty of Syringapattam, may remain in security. Concluded by Sir Charles Warre Malet, Bart. and Sir John Kennaway, Bart., each invested with plenipotentiary powers on the part of the English East India Company Bhadur by the Most Noble Charles Marquis Cornwallis K.G., Governor General Bhadur. No deviation is to be admitted in the conditions of this treaty. According to the settlement, let it remain firm.

Article 1st.

By the 13th article of the Treaty of Poona and the 10th article of the Treaty of Paungul, it is stipulated that if, after the conclusion of peace, Tippoo should quarrel with either of the three States, the other allies should join and punish him, and should there be occasion in future to enter into a war to inflict the said punishment, the plan thereof shall be settled by the three States in concert. According therefore to those articles, it is now agreed that, should

*Received by the Resident at Poona on 18 December, 1793. (Ed.)

in that case, and to that end, the contracting parties respectively agree to prosecute the war against Tippoo Sultaun, seriously and vigorously, with potent armies, well appointed and equipped with the requisite warlike apparatus and commanded by commanders of high rank, and to use every possible exertion to harrass and distress the enemy, and to bring the war to a speedy and honorable conclusion.

Article 3d.

In order for the clear and distinct comprehension of the second article of this treaty, it is agreed that the territories and the rights and immunities of trade, ratified and confirmed by the aforesaid Treaty of Seringapatam to the contracting parties, shall be considered to be ratified and confirmed and guaranteed mutually by each to the other of the contracting parties against Tippoo Sultaun, by virtue of the present engagement.

Article 4th.

It is agreed that on a war becoming certain, the present instrument shall be sufficient and no other engagement shall be necessary; and in conformity to the present engagement, the distress or danger of the party injured or attacked being entitled to the earliest attention, while no time shall be lost by the allies in preparing themselves respectively for a vigorous prosecution of the war, agreeably to the 2nd article of this treaty, every immediate assistance that may be practicable shall be afforded him by the others, with such troops as may be in readiness for service, either by detaching them direct against the most vulnerable parts of the enemy's country or by sending them to the support of the party attacked, and that while they are engaged in preparations for the exertions of their respective force, a plan shall be settled by the mutual consent of all parties for the general conduct of the war.

Article 5th.

In the event of a war having been commenced against Tippoo Sultaun, the contracting powers agree that, in order to preserve as far as possible consistency and concert in the prosecution of it, a *Vakeel* from each party shall be permitted to reside in the army of the others for the purpose of communicating to each other their respective views and circumstances; and they further agree that during the continuance of the war neither of them will enter into separate negotiations with Tipoo Sultaun, but, on the receipt of any advice or message from him by either party, it shall be communicated to the others, and whenever peace may be determined on, it shall be settled by the mutual consent of the contracting parties, none of them introducing unreasonable objections.

Article 6th.

A constant readiness for war being the best security for the continuance of peace, the strictest attention is to be paid by the allies to keep their armies on a respectable footing, so as to be prepared at a short notice for service; and with a view to this end, it is agreed that the contracting parties shall allow

should be purchased agreeable to the occasion ; and *purwannas* for purchasing free of customs in the countries of three States should be granted on condition of its being for the Government.

Article 6th.

This treaty is not that a breach is *nolens volens* to be entered into with Tippoo ; but it is constructed that in the event of Tippoo being the aggressor, each of the allies may be bound to act agreeable to it. If one of the allies conceives that Tippoo is aggrieving him, he is immediately to represent it to the other allies, who are to dissuade Tippoo from a repetition of such conduct, and to tell him that it is improper ; and the allies interposing should terminate a quarrel actually existing, or about to take place.

Article 7th.

In the event of war happening in the support of this treaty, whatever should be taken from Tippoo, whether territory, forts, treasuries, concealed depositories, *et cetera*, should be equally divided between the three allies.

Article 8th.

If the *Sirkar* (Peshwa) should have occasion for one or two battalions, they should be furnished by the English East India Company, their pay to be supplied at the option of the Peshwa in the army or in Poona, agreeable to the rate formerly paid.

Article 9th.

Whatever country should be conquered from Tippoo the three allies shall continue in such country whatever was previously in practice regarding religion and holy men, brahmins, *fukeers* and mausoleums.

Article 10th.

The *peshcush* of the Peshwa Pundit Purdhan, which has been always received from Tippoo, is to be paid. Therefore, let Tippoo pay agreeable to the proportion of the country that remains, or may remain, in his possession.

Article 11th.

Should the *Sirkar* (Peshwa) have occasion for cannon, musquets, powder, balls, or other warlike stores, leave shall be granted for purchase from the Company or from merchants, free of customs.

such a breach appear, the ally apprehending the same shall make a particular communication thereof to the other allies, after which the other allies shall act according to their engagements.

Article 2nd.

The object of the past and present treaties is defence. It is therefore settled that if Tippoo gives cause of complaint to either of the allies, the said ally should represent to the other that there is no breach on his part, but that on the part of the Tippoo there is a breach, which being understood, the other allies should make a friendly representation to Tippoo, and in the event of its proving ineffectual, the three allies should then unite to punish him. But agreeable to what is heretofore written, they will not unite to punish him until they have understood the affair, and made a friendly representation to Tippoo. In the event of a war ensuing, it is agreed that it shall be prosecuted heartily with numerous forces, amply equipped, under the conduct of chiefs of trust and consequence, and that their utmost efforts shall be exerted to punish the said Tippoo, to effect a speedy termination of the war.

Article 3d.

In the event of a war with Tippoo being resolved on by the allies, this treaty shall be sufficient; there is no occasion for another. Should Tippoo molest or make war on either of the allies, the said ally shall communicate the same for the other allies, when they shall admonish him (Tippoo) agreeable to the stipulation of the 2d article; and should he not attend thereto, it will be incumbent that the other allies should soon take notice of the ally aggrieved. And it is stipulated that each ally shall immediately give assistance in such manner as may be practicable for carrying on the war; and on the occasion arising for assistance, that all the forces that may be in readiness shall be sent to invade the enemy's country or to join another ally; and in the interim of preparing the principal equipment, the plan of the war shall be settled amongst the allies.

Article 4th.

In the event of war with Tippoo, agreeable to mutual friendship, *Vackeels* should be entertained who may represent their own and their master's views and wishes. Until the conclusion of the war, neither of the allies shall hold separate communication with Tippoo, and should any message be sent by Tippoo to either, it shall be made known to the others; and on peace being to be concluded, it shall be done by concert between the three allies, nor shall any improper word* be introduced.

Article 5th.

Should it be necessary for the war to purchase elephants, horses, camels, bullocks or grain, the number of horses should be fixed; and the other articles

*Meaning thereby "objections".—These words appear on the margin of the text. (Ed.)

NOTES

NOTES

LETTERS FROM COURT

FOREIGN LETTER

No. 1—25 April 1792.

1. Mr Duane (p. 48)—He was the Managing Editor of *The Bengal Journal* published from Calcutta. In its issue dated 21 May 1791 the paper accused "some particular distinguished persons among the renegade French" of circulating a false rumour that Cornwallis had died after a brief illness at Bangalore and that the life of General Medows, who was ill at the same time, was also despaired of. Col. Canaple, the Commandant for the Affairs of the French Nation in Bengal, complained that this vague charge was in reality directed against himself, and requested the Company's Government to take suitable action. Duane was deported as he failed to make proper amends for the publication of the libel.—*Foreign Proceedings*, 25 May 1793, nos. 1-5.

2. Kedgeree (p. 49)—Formerly an important place of anchorage at the mouth of the river Hooghly.

POLITICAL LETTERS

No. 2—25 April 1792.

1. Gingerah (p. 52)—Gingerah or Janjira is a port about 45 miles south of Bombay, and from the close of the 15th century it was ruled by an Abyssinian family, the Sidis of Janjira. It was the only state in Western India which had successfully defied the Marathas so far. In 1784 there was a dispute regarding succession between Abdul Karim Khan (commonly called Balu Mian) and Sidi Johar, who wanted to set up Balu Mian's brother as ruler and act as his regent. Balu Mian fled to Purna carrying his brother with him, and sought the Peshwa's support. Nana Phadnis was anxious to acquire the island of Janjira. After protracted negotiations an agreement was reached on 6 June 1791 by which the Peshwa granted Balu Mian and his brother a tract of land near Surat (the modern Sachin State in the old Surat Agency, Bombay) and Rs. 40,000 in ready money; in return the latter relinquished their rights and title to Janjira in favour of the Peshwa. Sir Charles Malet greatly helped in the negotiations and was a guarantor for the due fulfilment of the agreement. The Marathas offered him a lakh of rupees in recognition of his services, but this he refused to accept.

2. The Minister (p. 52)—Nana Phadnis is often referred to as the Minister in the Correspondence while the Marathas are being discussed.

No. 4—25 June 1793.

1. To protect our ally (p. 71)—The Raja of Travancore.
2. Mirza Khurreeem Bukht (p. 72)—Khurrami Bakht *alias* Muazzam Shah was the son of Prince Jahandar Shah; the eldest son of Emperor Shah Alam.

No. 5—5 June 1795.

1. Giyrye Missre (p. 83)—Gujraje Misser.
2. Meer Allum (p. 89)—Mir Alam (1752-1808) was a minister of the Nizam who came to the limelight in 1789 and was employed on many diplomatic missions. He accompanied the Nizam's army and took part in the negotiations with Tipu during the Third Mysore War. On the death of Azim-ul-Umara in 1804 he became the chief minister of the Nizam and held this office till his death in 1808. The grant of an allowance by the Company to Mir Alam referred to here was in recognition of his services in connection with the formation of the Triple Alliance against Tipu and the conclusion of the Treaty of Pangal (1790) with the Nizam.

No. 6—3 July 1795.

1. Seycham (p. 106)—The MS. reads *Seycham* and *Seychoon* at different places. This is a corruption of *Sachiv* (*Seycheev*), one of the eight ministers of Shivaji. See G. S. Sardesai (Ed.), *Poona Affairs* (1786-97), Poona Residency Correspondence, Vol. II, p. 281.

2. Cauveripur and Verrepatchee (p. 106)—Cauveripur or Kaveripuram is a village on the right bank of the river Cauveri in Bhavani Taluk, Coimbatore District, Madras.—F. A. Nicholson, *Madras District Manuals: Coimbatore*, Vol. II (Madras, 1898), p. 340. Virupakshi is in Palni Tahsil, Madura District, Madras. It was the chief village of one of the *paleyams* which formed the province of Dindigul and was on the southern border of Mysore after the cessions made to the Company in 1792.—W. Francis, *Madras District Gazetteers: Madura*, Volume I (Madras, 1906), p. 310.

SECRET LETTERS

No. 7—7 February 1793.

1. War with the French nation (p. 123)—The French declared war on England and Holland on 1 February 1793. It is not clear how the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors writing on 7 February was not aware of it.

No. 10—23 October 1793.

1. Medows (p. 126)—Sir William Medows (1738-1813) came to India in 1783, and was appointed Commander in Chief and Governor of Bombay in 1788. When the war with Tipu broke out he was appointed Governor of Madras in February 1790 and was placed in supreme command of the operations. When his campaign proved a failure Cornwallis assumed personal command. Medows left India in August 1792. In 1793 *His*

3. **The Coast** (p. 52)—This term was used in the 18th century to mean the Madras or Coromandel coast and often the Madras Presidency.—H. Yule and A. C. Burnell, *Hobson-Jobson*.

4. **An Act passed in the last session of Parliament** (p. 52)—When Cornwallis went to Madras in 1791 and assumed personal command of the operations against Tipu, the Fort William Council invested him with the full powers of the Council in the conduct of operations and the negotiation of peace. But the Home authorities considered that this was in excess of the powers vested in the Council. Parliament, therefore, passed an Act in 1791 (31 Geo. III, 1st session, c. 40) confirming the resolution of the Council. Cornwallis was specifically vested, for the period of the war, with powers to conclude treaties in his own name and to issue orders to Governors and Councils of Fort St. George and Bombay or to any of their servants without previous communication to them.

5. **Bibi of Cannanore** (p. 52)—Cannanore is a coastal town in Malabar District, Madras. The rulers of this place were known as Ali Rajas or Lords of the Deep, and were nominally subject to the Raja of Kolattiri. After the British conquest of Malabar and its cession to the Company by Tipu, it was leased to its queen, referred to in the Correspondence as the Bibi of Cannanore.

6. **Treaty with the Raja of Cochin** (p. 53)—By this treaty, concluded on 6 January 1791, the Raja of Cochin agreed to become a tributary to the British Government for his territories, which were then in the possession of Tipu, and to pay a subsidy of one lakh of rupees annually.—C. U. Aitchison, *A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads*, Vol. X, p. 259.

7. **Defeated the Rajput forces at Murta** (p. 53)—Merta (Murta) in Jodhpur State, Rajputana, was known as "the Gateway of Marwar". De Boigne's victory over the Rajputs in the battle of Merta established Mahadji Sindia's supremacy in Rajputana.

8. **One of the princes of the House of Timur** (p. 55)—This was Jalal-ud-din Muhammad, commonly known as Khwajah Zadak.—*Political Letter to Court*, 21 November 1790, para. 130.

9. **Behaudur Bunder** (p. 62)—About three miles north of Koppal, the historic fort in Raichur District, Hyderabad.—Lt. Col. Mark Wilks, *History of Mysore*, Vol. II, p. 482.

10. **The Raja of Travancore** (p. 63)—The ruler at the time was Rama Raja, who reigned from 1758-98.

11. **Between the Vazir and the subjects of Timur Shah** (p. 64)—The Vazir of Oudh received letters and presents from Habibullah, the *Naib Subah* of Multan, and other dependents of Timur Shah while the envoy of the Shah himself was kept waiting without an audience being granted for presenting certain letters from his master. The Company felt that this action might adversely affect friendly and neighbourly relations with the Shah and advised the Vazir to keep on good terms with him and not to carry on correspondence with his subjects.—*Political Letter to Court*, 4 August 1791, paras. 74-77.

in the Company's territories in Bengal, the Company's accounts were for a long time kept in a different valuation viz., the *chalani* or current rupee. 116 of these rupees were equivalent to 100 *sikka* (*sicca*) rupees.—J. C. Sinha, *Economic Annals of Bengal*, p. 123. Also, H. H. Wilson, *A Glossary of Judicial and Revenue Terms*.

No. 3—3 September 1792.

1. Ely rupees (p. 154)—Index to the Press Lists of the Public Department Records, 1748-1800, notes that *ely* is "probably corruption of Arabic *hali*, current". This view is incorrect since different values are attached to *ely* and current rupees here and in the connected papers

2. Ct. (current) Rs. 3-12-5-8-6 (p. 154)—*Foreign Department Proceedings*, 7 December 1791, no. 1, give the figure as:

	Rs.	Ans.	G	C	T
CRs.	3	12	5	8	6

Regarding the sub-divisions of *cowrie*, Prinsep writes: "There are grades of monetary value even below that of *Cowree*; for the Hindus seem as fond of dealing with these infinitesimal quantities, as they are with the higher numbers, as exemplified in the article *Crore*. Thus 3 *Crant*, or 4 *Kak*, or 5 *But*, or 9 *Dunt*, or 27 *Jou*, or 32 *Dar*, or 80 *Til*, or 800 *Suno* are each equivalent to one *Cowree*. These are not in practical use in the North-Western Provinces, but are entered in several account books, and many of them appear to be employed in the Bazar transactions of Cuttack and parts of Bengal".—James Prinsep, *Useful Tables Illustrative of the Coins, Weights and Measures of British India*, p. 93.

No. 5—13 August 1793.

1. February (p. 158)—The war was declared on 1 February 1793.—*Foreign Proceedings*, 11 June 1793, no. 19A.

2. "Defined" (p. 159)—The MS. has "defended". The reading given here is based on *Foreign Proceedings*, 15 July 1793, no. 4.

3-4. "Propriety" and "for" (p. 160)—The MS. has "property" and "from". The readings given here are based on *Foreign Proceedings*, 15 July 1793, no. 4.

5. Induced to do so by absolute necessity (p. 161)—These words are not in the MS. The reading given here is based on *Foreign Proceedings*, 19 July 1793, no. 1.

6. Samulcottah (p. 162)—Samalkot (Chamarlakota) in Cocanada Taluk, Godavari District, Madras, was "the principal garrison of the English in the Circar of Rajahmundry".—F. R. Hemingway, *Madras District Gazetteers: Godavari*, Vol. I, (Madras, 1909), p. 214.

7. Sulky (p. 163)—Sulkea, a populous suburb of Calcutta, situated on the opposite or western side of the river Hooghly. Here the Government had extensive warehouses for the reception of salt.—Edward Thornton, *Gazetteer of the Territories under the East India Company and of the Native States on the Continent of India*, Vol. IV.

8. Accounts (p. 164)—This word is not in the MS. The reading given here is based on *Foreign Proceedings*, 17 June 1793, no. 25.

Government proposed to appoint him and Col. Stuart to lead the expedition against Mauritius, but his name was dropped out at a later stage.

2. Colonel Stuart (p. 126)—James Stuart (1741-1815) served under Medows and Cornwallis in the Third Mysore War, and was in immediate charge of the siege of Seringapatam in 1792. In 1794 he was placed in charge of the expedition against Mauritius and Bourbon, which ultimately did not materialise. In 1795 he was in charge of the operations against the Dutch possessions in Ceylon. He later retired as Commander in Chief of the Madras Army.

No. 18—14 June 1794.

1. Le Mergein (p. 135)—One of the copies of the MS. has "*Le Vergeir*".

No. 23—21 August 1795.

1. Secret Letter dated 21 August 1795 (p. 141)—Although this letter is found in a volume of Political Letters it appears to have been issued from the Secret Department. The previous reference cited in it, the letter of 7 July, is a Secret Letter. Also, see *Political Letter to Court*, 31 October 1795, para. 1.

LETTERS TO COURT

FOREIGN LETTERS

No. 1—25 January 1792.

1. Objectionable (p. 149)—De Charpentier Cossigny, Governor General of the Isle of France and Bourbon, in his letter dated 20 July 1791, intimated to the Government of Fort William the deputation of Gautier and Yoon as Commissaries to take cognizance of the troubles at Chandranagore and requested the Company to treat with them in all matters concerning the French nation. De Fresne, the French Governor at Pondicherry, appointed De Fumeron as agent at Chandranagore in succession to De Canaple who had died, and the latter claimed to act for the French nation. A dispute arose between De Fumeron and the Commissaries about receiving delivery of 300 chests of opium due annually from the Company. The Government of Fort William after examining the conflicting claims decided to treat with De Fumeron and gave delivery of the article to him. The Commissaries sent a vigorous protest against this action, the language of which was deemed to be very objectionable by the Fort William authorities.—*Foreign Proceedings*, 13 January 1792, no. 1.

No. 2—8 April 1792.

1. Current rupees (p. 151)—Though in 1778 the Company struck a rupee entitled the *sikka* (*sicca*) rupee, which became the medium of exchange

Dindigul, from where relief was proposed to be obtained, are places further south in the Carnatic.

5. **Country** (p. 183)—This word is not in the MS. The reading given here is based on *Political Proceedings*, 11 January 1792, no. 4.

6. **Sir Charles Oakley** (p. 184)—A distinguished civil servant of Madras, Sir Charles Oakeley (1751-1826) was the President of the Madras Council during the absence of Meadows on field service from 15 October 1790 to 21 April 1792. He succeeded Meadows as Governor of Madras in August 1792 and retired in September 1794.

7. **Chittaldroog** (p. 184)—A strong fort in the northern part of Mysore. It was used as a state prison by Tipu.—Thornton, *op. cit.*

8. **Sir John Kennaway** (p. 184)—Sir John Kennaway (1758-1836) was the Company's Resident at Hyderabad from 28 April 1788 to January 1794. He played an important part in the negotiations preceding the Treaty of Seringapatam, 1792.

9. **Gurramcoondah** (p. 184)—Gurramkonda. The fort stood on a hillock, 500 feet high, three sides consisting of almost perpendicular precipices, the fourth side, though accessible, steep and guarded by ramparts and redoubts, line behind line. It was captured by the Anglo-Hyderabad forces in 1791, and was ceded to the Nizam by the Treaty of Seringapatam.

10. **The Minister** (p. 184)—The Chief Minister of the Nizam, Azim-ul-Umara.

11. **Paangul** (p. 185)—A border fortress in the Nizam's dominions, 85 miles south of Hyderabad, on the Krishna River. It was the limit of Nizam Ali's personal campaign in the war.—Wilks, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 481.

12. **Balaji Pundit** (p. 185)—Nana Phadnis was also known as Balaji Pandit.

13. **General Abercromby** (p. 185)—Sir Robert Abercromby (1740-1827) came to India in 1788, and was appointed Commander in Chief and Governor of Bombay on 21 January 1790. He succeeded Lord Cornwallis as Commander in Chief in India on 28 October 1793 and resigned this post on 19 February 1797. He was also a member of the Supreme Council during this period.

14. **Letter by the Queen** (p. 185)—*Political Letter to Court*, 1 December 1791.

15. **Fussily year** (p. 186)—*Fasli*, *Fuslee* (corruptly *Fassily* and *Fusly*) is a Hindusthani word for certain solar eras which were established for use in revenue and other civil transactions under Muhammadan rule in India. The eras were started to meet the inconveniences of the *Hijra*, a lunar calendar, arising out of its want of correspondence with the natural seasons. Two of the *Fasli* eras continued in use as regards revenue matters, *viz.*, the *Fasli* of the Upper India under which the *Fasli* year 1286 began on 2 April 1878 and the *Fasli* of Madras and the Deccan under which it began on 1 July 1877.—Yule and Burnell, *op. cit.*, and Wilson, *op. cit.*

16. **Mr. Powney** (p. 186)—George Powney was the Company's Resident in Travancore from 1789 and his dealings with the Raja recall

9. Previous to the notification of the war (p. 165)—These words are not in the MS. The reading given here is based on *Foreign Proceedings*, 28 June 1793, no. 24.

10. Cochin (p. 166)—The MS. has "Coction". The reading given here is based on *Foreign Proceedings*, 12 July 1793, no. 2.

11. Or (p. 166)—This word is not in the MS. The reading given here is based on *Foreign Proceedings*, 12 July 1793, no. 2.

12. Sheep (p. 166)—The MS. has "ship". The reading given here is based on *Foreign Proceedings*, 12 July 1793, no. 2.

No. 7—12 January 1794.

1. Richemont (p. 169)—Shore in his letter to Charles Grant referred to Richemont as the leader of the democratic band and the self-constituted Governor of Chandernagore.—Lord Teignmouth, *Memoir of the Life and Correspondence of John Lord Teignmouth*, Vol. I, p. 261.

2. Monsr. Chenu (p. 170)—Monsr. Chenu, a French citizen and prisoner of war, was released on parole and permitted to go to Europe. He was sued in the Supreme Court of Judicature at Calcutta by Mr. Daviond, a fellow prisoner of war, for the satisfaction of a debt contracted by him at Mauritius, a French colony.—*Foreign Proceedings*, 20 December 1793, no. 2.

No. 9—31 May 1794.

1. Firokia (p. 175)—Feroikh, situated on the southern bank of the Bypore River, 7 miles from Calicut in Malabar. Tipu wanted to develop it as a rival port to Calicut as well as an emporium of trade.

POLITICAL LETTERS

No. 13—25 January 1792.

1. Major Close (p. 182)—Having joined the Madras Army in 1771 Sir Barry Close (1756-1813) served as Deputy Adjutant General under Cornwallis from 1790-92 during the war with Tipu. His later career as Resident at Mysore in 1799 and at Poona in 1801 was highly distinguished.

2. Sevendroog (p. 182)—Savandurga, a mountain fort near Bangalore. It was considered the most formidable stronghold in Mysore. Cornwallis came personally from his camp, seven miles distant, to witness the assault.

3. Coimbatore (p. 183)—Owing to its strategical position commanding both the Palghat gap leading to Malabar and the Gazalhatti Pass to Mysore, its possession was greatly coveted. It played an important part in all the Mysore Wars.

4. Errode, Sattimungulam and Demicotah (p. 183)—Lying at the southern end of the Gazalhatti Pass which was the normal route from Mysore to Coimbatore District, Satyamangalam, 40 miles north-east of Coimbatore, was a place of strategical importance. Demicotah or Danayakanakotai is 13 miles south-west of Satyamangalam on the road to Coimbatore, and Erode is 35 miles south-east. The possession of these three places was considered essential to control Baramahal. Karur (Carore) and

of Coorg on 9 March 1792, a demand to which he had the strongest objection and which he asserted as being opposed to the preliminary articles of peace that had been agreed upon. Tipu retorted by demanding the return of the hostages and started strengthening his defences.—Wilks *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 553-55.

8. On the 19th ultimo (p. 191)—The treaty was signed and sealed by Cornwallis on 18 March 1792.—Aitchison *op. cit.*, Vol. IX, p. 240; also, *Political Letter to Court*, 3 September 1792, para. 2.

9. Our address by the Kent (p. 192)—In this letter all references to the dispatch sent by the *Kent* are to *Political Letter to Court*, 25 January 1792.

10. Commodore Cornwallis (p. 192)—Sir William Cornwallis of the Royal Navy (1744-1819) was the younger brother of the Governor General. He was appointed naval Commander in Chief in the East Indies in 1789, and remained in the eastern waters till his return to England in the spring of 1794. When war broke out with the French in 1793 he rendered great assistance in the capture of Chandernagore and Pondicherry.

11. By the Queen (p. 192)—*Political Letter to Court*, 1 December 1791.

12. To attend him on the journey (p. 192)—In 1792 when Mahadji Sindia proposed to go to Poona he wanted Palmer to accompany him. But Malet, the Resident at Poona, objected as the presence of a second British envoy at the Peshwa's Court would have affected his position adversely, and there was also the danger of the activities of the two envoys coming into conflict. Palmer, therefore, did not accompany Mahadji.—Jadunath Sarkar, *Mahadji Sindia and North Indian Affairs*, Poona Residency Correspondence, Vol. I, p. xii.

13. Letters from Timoor Shah (p. 193)—Until about the end of 1792 there were periodical alarms that Timur Shah, the son of the famous Ahmad Shah Durrani, would be invading India either to conquer the country for himself or to restore Emperor Shah Alam to his former power and glory. In March 1792 the Shah defeated the Sikhs in the north and captured the fort of Rohtas, and rumours were again strong that he had assigned that fort and 10,000 cavalry to Prince Ahsan Bakht, a son of Shah Alam who resided in Kabul, for the purpose of driving the Marathas back to the Deccan, and that the Prince with that force had arrived at Peshawar. The rumours were set at rest only by the death of the Shah in June 1792.—P. Basu, *Oudh and the East India Company*, pp. 56-8.

14. Chaorbaug (p. 193)—“A place about four days' journey from Kaubul [Kabul]”.—*Political Proceedings*, 8 February 1792; no. 20.

15. Gualparah (p. 193)—Goalpara in Assam was at that time within the Company's possessions. Since foreign merchants had no free access into that country, trade was carried on with Assam through this frontier outpost.

16. Mr. Rausch (p. 193)—Daniel Raush, a leading European merchant of Goalpara residing there from 1769, played an important part in the civil troubles of Assam, first supporting the rebel Raja Krisnan of and later espousing the cause of the Raja of Assam.

in 1793. Later he was Collector of Ramnad. See also note entitled "serious misunderstanding", p. 534 below.

17. Mr. Duncan (p. 186)—Jonathan Duncan (1756-1811) entered the Company's service in 1772 and was Resident at Benares from 1787 to 1795. At the end of 1792 he was appointed member of the Malabar Commission and after completing his labours on the Commission he returned to Benares in March 1794. He was Governor of Bombay from December 1795 to August 1811.—A. Shakespeare, *Selections from the Duncan Records*, Vol. I, p. iii.

18. Major Palmer (p. 186)—William Palmer (1740-1816) was Resident at Gwalior in Sindia's Court from 1787 to 1798.

No. 14—8 April 1792.

1. Coomsee and Anundpore (p. 189)—Kumsi (Coomsee) is now a village 14 miles north-west of Shimoga in Mysore State. Anundpore or Anandapura was a place of importance in the time of Tipu and Haidar. It is now a village bearing the name Anantapura in Sagar Taluk, Shimoga District, Mysore State.—Wilks, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 505; *Imperial Gazetteer of India: Mysore and Coorg* (Calcutta, 1908), p. 249.

2. Azeem ul Omrah (p. 189)—Azim-ul-Umara (1734-1804). His original name was Ghulam Saiyid Khan, and he is also commonly referred to in the records by his other title Mushir-ul-Mulk. He was the principal adviser to Nizam Ali from 1783. His power waned for a short while when he was surrendered to the Marathas after the battle of Kharda in March 1795. He returned to Hyderabad in 1797 and continued to act as the chief minister till his death in May 1804.

3. Bednore (p. 190)—Bednore or Bidnur is the ancient name for Nagar in Shimoga District, Mysore State. It was the seat of government of the Rajas of Ikkeri. Haidar Ali captured it in 1763 and renamed it Haidarnagar or Haidar's Town. Subsequently it was abbreviated popularly as Nagar.—Thornton, *op. cit.*

4. Poodiacherrum Pass (p. 190)—Pudiyacharan Pass, from Cannanore through Irukkur to Virajendrapet in Coorg.—Wilks, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 703, editor's note.

5. 23d of February (p. 190)—The preliminary articles agreed upon bear the date 22 February 1792.—Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. IX, p. 232.

6. As the heir of the Sultanah (p. 190)—Tipu gave as hostages his two sons Abdul Khaliq and Muiz-ud-Din. The reference here is to the latter's mother, whose properties the prince was expected to inherit.—Charles Ross, *Correspondence of Charles, First Marquis Cornwallis*, Vol. II, p. 152.

7. As hostages of Lord Cornwallis (p. 191)—The allegation was made on the basis of a report from Cornwallis. (Letter to Sir Charles Oakeley, 13 March 1792—Ross, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 158.) But it appears very unlikely that Tipu thought in terms of renewing hostilities and at the same time surrendered his sons as hostages on 26 February 1792 and also paid eleven hundred thousand pounds. According to Wilks, the work of repairing the fort walls was commenced *after* Tipu received the demand for the cession

The Government of India, p. 172. Also, W. Lee-Warner, *The Protected Princes of India*, p. 45.

8. The late outrages (p. 204)—The complaint was the result of a quarrel between a Pathian soldier in the Maratha service and a sepoy in the Company's service which led to a murderous attack on a *naik* in the employ of the Company. The Resident at Broach complained that Sindia's governor Lallubai was from the very beginning "insolent, refractory and oppressive", and that the Company's prestige was at a very low ebb as a result of such incidents.—*Political Proceedings*, 30 July 1792, no. 38.

9. Bhow Backshy (p. 204)—Sadashiv Malhar Bavle, Mahadji Sindia's foreign secretary in his dealings with the English, was popularly known as *Bhau Bakhshi*.—Jadunath Sarkar, *Fall of the Mughal Empire*, Vol. IV, p. 143.

10. Hyder Beg Khawn (p. 206)—Haidar Beg Khan, *Naib* or Deputy of the Vazir of Oudh from 1776-91.

11. Mr. Ives (p. 206)—Edward Otto Ives, Resident at Lucknow from 1787-94. He resigned in February 1794.—*Calendar of Persian Correspondence*, Vol. VII, p. 370, editorial note 2.

12. Hossein Raza Cawn (p. 206)—Mirza Hasan Raza Khan, an intimate friend of Nawab Asaf-ud-Daulah, was appointed as *Naib* or Deputy in 1776. But real power was wielded by his coadjutor Haidar Beg Khan.

No. 16—14 October 1792.

1. By the Dutton (p. 206)—*Political Letter to Court*, 8 April 1792.

2. Mantehonx language (p. 207)—See paragraph 97, *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May 1793, for a further reference to the subject. Capt. Kirkpatrick got the letter translated at Khatmandu, and in forwarding a copy of the translation observed: "The originals are all in the Tibet character and language, not even the one from Toong Thang being written in the Muntihcon as was imagined, so that by the 'China Letter' mentioned by the Lamas it would seem that 'a Letter from the Chinese Commander' was meant."—*Original Political Consultation*, 22 April 1793, no. 16.

3. Captain William Kirkpatrick (p. 208)—William Kirkpatrick (1754-1812) joined Bengal Infantry in 1773, and served as Persian Interpreter to Cornwallis during the Third Mysore War. In 1793 he led a mission to Nepal, and an account of it was published in 1811. In January 1794 he succeeded Kennaway as Resident at Hyderabad and held this post till November 1797.

No. 17—14 December 1792.

1. Approved (p. 211)—By the treaty of 1775 it was stipulated that a regular brigade of the Company's troops should be stationed in the territories of the Nawab Vazir for the defence of his realm, and the ruler was to pay two lakhs and sixty thousand rupees per month for their maintenance.—Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 107.

2. Sir Charles Malet (p. 211)—Sir Charles Malet (1752-1815) was Resident at Poona from March 1786 to February 1797, and later Member of Council and acting Governor of Bombay.

17. *Burkundosses* (p. 193)—*Barkandaz*. Armed retainers, armed policemen or armed unmounted employees of a civil department. Here they mean up-country stalwarts and fortune hunters who constantly pillaged Assamese villages during the 18th and early 19th centuries.

No. 15—3 September 1792.

1. **The Board's letter by the Dutton** (p. 194)—In this dispatch all references to the letter by the *Dutton* are to *Political Letter to Court*, 8 April 1792.

2. **His Lordship's letter** (p. 194)—For the text of the letter, see George Forrest, *Selections from the State Papers of the Governors-General of India—Lord Cornwallis*, Vol. II, p. 62.

3. **Hurry Punt Furkia** (p. 194)—Haripant Phadke, the Maratha commander who distinguished himself in the First Maratha War.

4. **The 13 and 10 articles of the treaties of alliance** (p. 197)—Article 13 of the treaty of alliance concluded with the Peshwa on 1 June 1790 and Article 10 of the treaty concluded with the Nizam on 4 July 1790 provided: 'If, after the conclusion of peace with Tipu, he should molest or attack either of the contracting parties, the others shall join to punish him; the mode and conditions of effecting which shall be hereafter settled by the three contracting powers'.—Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. VII, p. 49; Vol. IX, p. 46.

5. **To his master** (p. 199)—Wilks writes that Badr-uz-Zaman had surrendered at Dharwar and agreed to give up the fort with its guns and stores in their actual condition. But the Marathas complained that he had caused the ammunition to be ruined by water and the stores to be destroyed. So, in retaliation, the Mysore force was attacked and nearly destroyed by Parashuram Bhau, and Zaman Khan was sent as a prisoner to a Maratha fort. The latter naturally denied this charge of a breach of faith; but 'the author (i.e. Wilks) must add, as a tribute of truth, that it was circumstantially related to him by a Mysorean officer, who was wounded on that occasion and who had (as he affirmed), been personally employed in the destruction of the stores'. Grant Duff also supports this account.—Wilks, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 487-88. Grant Duff, *A History of the Marathas*, Vol. II, p. 201.

6. **Vakeel-ul-Mutluck** (p. 201)—On 4 December 1784 the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam conferred on the Peshwa the title of *Vakil-i-Mutlak* and selected Mahadji Sindia to act as his deputy. After the battle of Patan in June 1790 Mahadji obtained a fresh patent making the Peshwa's office of *Vakil-i-Mutlak*, as well as his own appointment as deputy, hereditary. The delivery of the imperial orders and the insignia of office provided the necessary excuse to Mahadji for visiting Poona, a matter referred to frequently in these records.

7. **The Chancery suit** (p. 203)—The suit, celebrated in legal history, was heard and dismissed by Lord Commissioner Eyre in July 1793 on the ground that "the subject matter of the suit was a matter of political treaty between the Nabob and the Company, the Company having acted throughout the transaction in their political capacity, and having been dealt with by the Nabob as if they were an independent sovereign".—Sir Courtenay Ilbert,

he was working as A.D.C., he entered the service of the Nizam, and by 1795 had organised a body of 15,000 troops under European officers.—Herbert Compton, *European Military Adventurers of Hindustan from 1784-1803*, p. 382.

12. The fiat of Charles 2nd, A.D. 166 (p. 234)—The year is wrongly given in the MS. as 1635. The year given in *Political Consultation*, 14 September 1792, no. 7, is A.D. 166 $\frac{1}{2}$. The Dictionary of National Biography states that precedence was claimed by Charles W. Malet as from 1663. Thomas Malet, from whose time Charles W. Malet claimed precedence, was made a baron by Charles II, but the fiat of honour was never completed and he died in 1665. The claim was not finally allowed by the Crown.—L. Stephen and L. Sidney (Eds.), *Dictionary of National Biography*, (London, 1908).

13. This defenceless town (p. 235)—Ujjain, the seat of Sindia's Government.

14. Achul Thoomor (p. 236)—One of the copies of the MS. has "Achul Phoomor". See also Achat Kunwar, *Calendar of Persian Correspondence*, Vol. IX, letters 454 and 492.

15. Prince Meerza Hodjee (p. 236)—Prince Mirza Hazi was the son of Prince Jawan Bakht Mirza Jahandar Shah, the eldest son of Emperor Shah Alam. Jawan Bakht fled to Lucknow in 1784, and on the recommendation of Hastings the Vazir of Oudh gave him a house in Lucknow and a pension of Rs. 25,000 a month.—Basu, *op. cit.*, pp. 46-7.

No. 18—29 January 1793.

1. By the Pitt (p. 240).—In this letter references to the dispatch sent by the Pitt are to *Political Letter to Court*, 14 December 1792.

2. Shatoor (p. 240)—One of the copies of the MS. has "Chatoor."

3. The Assufferun Katcherry of the Presence (p. 242)—The letter written by the *Aumil* of "Arkul Gour" and "Kootour" was a request for the posting of additional troops to help him to punish the depredations of the "Corha people". Presumably, the letter was addressed to the *Assufmiran Katcherry* or the Central Military Department of Tipu's Government.—*Political Proceedings*, 17 December 1792, no. 19.

4. From the Nabob of Kurnoul (p. 242)—In his letter dated 7 January 1792 to Cornwallis Tipu Sultan denied the claim of the French to Gondia Gutta, which was part of his possessions in Calicut. In the same letter he drew the attention of the Governor General to the following: (1) the delay in the surrender of Shera; Jaanpatta, Saupaun (Sausram) by the Peshwa, and of Nuzmdaadu near Sungum Mullah by the Nizam; (2) the wrongful occupation of Suddasheoghur by the Portuguese, which they originally occupied during the war; and (3) the Nizam's interference in the affairs of Karnul coming in the way of the payment of *peshkash* to him by the Nawab.—*Political Proceedings*, 11 January 1793, no. 12.

5. Parcarry [Pujari] (p. 242)—The reading suggested here is based on C. K. Srinivasan, *Maratha Rule in the Carnatic*, p. 321.

6. No manner of concern (p. 243)—Schwartz rescued Sarbhoji and the

3. **Our letter by the Ganges** (p. 217)—In this letter references to the dispatch sent by the *Ganges* are to *Political Letter to Court*, 3 September 1792.

4. **Polygars of Charcul, Natgoonte and Curegoody** (p. 218)—The *Original Political Consultations*, 29 October 1792, nos. 1-2, spell the last name as Cungoody, Cungoondy. Kangundi, which was a portion of the Baramahal, was transferred by Tipu to the Company under the Treaty of Seringapatam (1792). All the three places, now known as Chargal, Naraganti and Kangundi, are in North Arcot District, Madras.—A. F. Cox: *Madras District Manuals: North Arcot*, Vol. I (Madras, 1881), p. 418.

5. **Star pagoda** (p. 221)—*Pagoda* is an Anglo-Indian term for a gold coin current in South India, and known locally as *varaha* or *hun*. Many varieties of the *pagoda* were in circulation on the Coromandel coast. *Star pagodas* were *pagodas* issued from Madras. Accounts were kept in Madras till 1818 in *star pagodas*, *fanams* and *cash* (*kasu*): 8 *cash*=1 *fanam*; 42 *fanams*=1 *pagoda*. One *pagoda* was equivalent to 3½ rupees.—Yule and Burnell, *op. cit.*; Prinsep, *op. cit.*, p. 18.

6. **Calicut** (p. 222)—Well-known emporium of trade in Malabar on the West Coast. The Portuguese, the French and the English had their factories there at different times. In 1790 the port was captured by the British from Tipu and acquired permanently by the Treaty of Seringapatam.

7. **Onore** (p. 222)—Honavar, a port in North Canara District, Bombay. The treaty of 1770 concluded with Haidar Ali provided for the establishment of a factory here by the Company and one at Karwar. The treaty also gave the Company the sole and exclusive right of purchasing all the pepper and sandalwood produced in Haidar's dominions, but at the same time it provided that payment should be made in arms, ammunitions, etc. Since the Company was reluctant to provide munitions of war to its professed enemy the factories were not established and trade relations did not develop.

8. **Malwan Rajah** (p. 223)—The Raja of Kolhapur. Malwan is a port in Ratnagiri District, 150 miles south of Bombay.

9. **The province of Broach** (p. 225)—The Company conquered Broach in 1772 and obtained recognition from Raghoba for its possession in 1775. In 1782, by the Treaty of Salbai, all the possessions acquired by the Company in Broach were handed over to the Peshwa with the exception of the town and subdivision of Broach, which were handed over to Mahadji Sindia "in testimony of the sense entertained of the conduct manifested by him to the British army at Wadgaon and of his humane treatment and release of the English gentlemen who had been his hostages on the occasion" Mahadji on his part granted freedom to the English to trade without molestation and promised not to permit any other European nation to carry on trade in Broach.—Grant Duff, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 147.

10. **Arcot Rupees** (p. 229)—The rupee current in Madras was originally that of the Nawab of the Carnatic, and so was commonly known as the Arcot Rupee.

11. **Monsieur Raymond** (p. 230)—Francois de Raymond (1755-98). Col. Malleeson gives the name as Michael Joachim Marie Raymond. He was a well known French adventurer. After the death in 1785 of Bussy, with whom

5. Colonel Brathwaite (p. 253)—John Brathwaite, a senior officer of the Madras Army, succeeded temporarily to its command on the resignation of Major General Medows on 1 August 1792 and held this post till Major General A. Clarke took over on 15 January 1796.

6. Baramahal (p. 253)—Loosely applied to the north-east corner of the present Salem District. It was ceded by Tipu to the British in 1792.

7. The Nizam's Ministers (p. 258)—One of the copies of the MS. has "the Nizam's Minister".

8. The Bombay Council (p. 262)—One of the copies has "the Bombay Court", but this is incorrect.

9. On the Patell's recommendation (p. 266)—Mahadji Sindia was known as the Patel or Patel Bahadur.

10. Treaty of Salbhye (p. 266)—Article 8 of the treaty concluded on 17 March 1782 provided, "The territory which had long been the established *jagir* of Sayaji Gaikawar and Fatch Singh Gaikawar, that is to say, whatever territory Fatch Singh Gaikawar possessed at the commencement of the present war, shall hereafter for ever remain on the usual footing in his possession; and the said Fatch Singh from the date of this treaty being complete shall pay for the future to the Peshwa the tribute as usual previous to the present war, and shall perform such services and be subject to such obedience, as have long been established and customary."—Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. VII, p. 39.

11. Tuckojee Holcar (p. 267)—Commander in Chief of Holkar's forces during the rule of Ahalya Bai (1765-95). Succeeded Ahalya Bai as ruler and died in 1797.

12. From the Gooroo (p. 267)—The reference is to Gujraje Misser.—See Introduction, p. 30. *Political Proceedings*, 3 October 1792, no 16; 1 April 1793, no. 11; 12 April 1793, no. 23.

13. Dispatch by the Europa (p. 269)—*Political Letter to Court*, 14 October 1792.

14. Burra Burwa (p. 270)—*Barbarua*, an Ahom officer who was the head of the executive, wielding control over all judicial, revenue, and also military functions.

15. Cholladerah Fogan (p. 270)—*Choladhara Phukan*, the officer in charge of the store containing the regalia consisting of royal cloaks or *cholas*. This *Phukan* was also in charge of the departments of commerce and external affairs.

16. Surgy Deo (p. 271)—*Svargadev*, literally, God of Heaven. This title, a shortened form of *Svarga Nārayan Dev*, was applied to the Ahom rulers of Assam.

No. 22—13 August 1793.

1. Palnaud District (p. 276)—Guntur belonged to the Nizam at this time, and Palnad (Palnaud), bordering on Guntur, to the Nawab of Arcot. The disturbances in Guntur, therefore, affected the peace and tranquillity of the Carnatic, and necessitated the Company's intervention.—*Political Proceedings*, 24 May 1793, no. 12.

widows of the late Raja Tulja Singh from the palace and the Madras Government directed their removal to Madras with a view to protect them from the persecutions of Raja Amar Singh. The Raja, however, showed great anxiety to be reconciled to them to avoid a public scandal. On 25 November 1792 he met the three officers of the Company referred to in the letter, and expressed to them his willingness to be advised and guided by Schwartz in the matter. The officers communicated the gist of their talk to Schwartz. But Schwartz was not inclined to put much faith in the Raja's promises, and he again urged the Madras Government to arrange for their early removal to Madras and also to prevent the Raja from stopping their departure. The Government of Madras took strong objection to the officers having had any discussions with the Raja on the subject, for they were conducting for some time past all their correspondence with him solely through the channel of Schwartz. They directed Capt. Wallace, the Commanding Officer at Tanjore, to carry out the orders already issued for the transfer of Sarbhoji and the widows to Madras.—*Political Proceedings*, 11 January 1792, no. 6.

7. **Serious misunderstanding** (p. 243)—From the proceedings of the Council at Fort William it appears that Powney suspected the *Dewan* of Travancore of intriguing with the Dutch to diminish the power of Cochin, a tributary of the Company, and there were strained relations between the two men. The immediate cause was the Raja's dissatisfaction with the terms of the Treaty of Seringapatam and his conviction that Powney was acting in an unfriendly manner towards him and was reporting him unfavourably to the Governor General. In his letter to Sir Charles Oakeley, Governor of Fort St. George, dated 10 November 1792, he accused Powney of having been overbearing in his talks and of having told him "that he had been the cause of Lord Cornwallis's refusing to send for the . . . *Dewan*, and that owing to what he, Mr. Powney, had written, my [the Raja's] name had not been inserted in the treaty between the Company and Tipu Sultan". Although the Madras Council found Mr. Powney's conduct generally satisfactory, they felt that he should have shown greater tact and discretion in his relations with the Raja.—*Political Proceedings*, 17 December 1792, nos. 8 and 13; 11 January 1793, nos. 4 and 5.

No. 20—18 May 1793.

1. **The Melville Castle** (p. 247)—In this letter references to the dispatch sent by the *Melville Castle* are to *Political Letter to Court*, 29 January 1793.

2. **Polygars of Moograul, Paukhall and Pelloor** (p. 248)—Magarala, Pakala and Pullur are in North Arcot District, Madras, and their Palegars were at this time dependent on the Jagirdar of Chittoor and Chandragiri.—*Original Political Consultation*, 29 March 1793, no. 2.

3. **Rajahs of Calastray, Vencatagherry and Bomrauze** (p. 248)—The estate of Kalahasti (Calastray) is spread over the North Arcot, Nellore and Chingleput Districts, Madras. Venkatagiri is an estate in Nellore District, Madras. The identity of Bomrauze is not clear.

4. **Several details** (p. 250)—One of the copies of the MS. has "several articles".

gherry or Sulagiri is in Hosur Taluk, Salem District, Madras. It was an ancient *pallegari* on the northern border of Mysore after Tipu's cession of Baramahal to the Company.—F. J. Richards, *Madras District Gazetteers: Salem*, Vol. 1, Part II (Madras, 1918), pp. 157-59.

2. Treaty proposed by Marquis Cornwallis (p. 314)—See Appendix 1 for the text of the draft treaty.

3. A new draft of treaty (p. 314)—See Appendix 2 for the text of the draft treaty put forward by the Peshwa.

4. Over (p. 317)—The MS. has "from". The reading given here is based on *Original Political Consultation*, 3 January 1794, no. 21.

5. Commerce (p. 317)—The word is not in the MS. The reading given here is based on *Original Political Consultation*, 3 January 1794, no. 21.

6. Cannanore (p. 317)—The MSS. spell the word as Carnarain, Canharan. The reading given here is based on *Original Political Consultation*, 3 January 1794, no. 21.

7&8. "Ercoor" and "Pushirkeram Gaut" (p. 317)—Ercoor is spelt in Logan's Malabar as Errocor and Irukur and in the *Malabar District Gazetteer* as Irukur. It is a village on the road from Cannanore to Perambadi Ghat which leads on to Coorg. The river on which it stands is navigable up to this point. Pushirkeram Gaut is spelt as Pushichiram Ghat in the *Original Political Consultation*, 3 January 1794, no. 21. Its identity is not clear. Presumably it is another name for the Perambadi Ghat.—Logan, William, *Malabar*, Vol. 1 (1887). C. A. Inns, *Madras District Gazetteers: Malabar and Anjengo* (Madras, 1908), p. 397.

9. Gossains [Gohains] (p. 318)—The word Gossains should probably be Gohains. The latter is a title applied to the three cabinet ministers of the Assam Raja (*Buragohain*, *Bargohain* and *Barpatragohain*). *Daugarias* and the wardens of the frontier during the period of their office, and the sons of kings and other princes of the Ahom blood royal.—S. K. Bhuyan, *Tungkhungia Burauji—A History of Assam*, p. 239.

10. The honorable reception of His Excellency Lord Macartney (p. 319)—The reference here is to the reception given to Lord Macartney on his reaching China as Ambassador Plenipotentiary on behalf of the British Government.

No. 31—10 March 1794.

1. Captain Doveton (p. 325)—Sir John Doveton (1768-1847) entered the Madras Army as a cadet in 1782 and later rose to the rank of a lieutenant general. He served as a lieutenant in the Second Mysore War, and was entrusted with the care of the sons of Tipu when they were hostages with the British.

2. The 7th article of the treaty of peace (p. 325)—The 7th Article of the Treaty of Seringapatam, 1792, runs as follows: "The contracting parties agree that zamindars and *aumildars*, being in balance to either party, protection shall not be given them, and they shall be restored."—Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. IX, p. 237.

2. By the Tartar (p. 277)—In this letter references to the dispatch sent by the Tartar are to *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May 1793.

3. In our last dispatches (paragraph 37) (p. 289)—The reference here is really to *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May 1793.

4. Mr. De Boigne (p. 291)—Counté Benoit De Boigne (1751-1830) was a foreign adventurer who rose to military eminence in the service of Mahadji Sindia. He resigned his command in December 1795 and left India shortly after.

5. The Buroo Fogan (p. 291)—A *Phukan* was the head or superintendent of a *khel* (a division of Assamese subjects who were to perform specific services to the state) or *mel* (royal estate). The *Bar Phukan* was the Ahom viceroy at Gauhati entrusted with the civil and military administration of the area from Kaliabhar to Goalpara.

6. Candahar Chokey (p. 293)—Kandahar or Assam Chokey was at the mouth of the Manas River, opposite Goalpara.—S. K. Bhuyan, *Anglo-Assamese Relations, 1771-1826*, p. 62.

7. Town Major (p. 294)—Of Calcutta.

8. Letter from the Foreign Department (p. 294)—*Foreign Letter to Court*, 13 August 1793.

No. 23—28 October 1793.

1. By the Tartar (p. 297)—In this letter references to the dispatch by the Tartar are to *Political Letter to Court*, 18 May 1793.

2. Ameera, Soolua, Erwara Seemy (p. 298)—These place names have been spelt variously in the MSS. The Report of the Joint Commission on the Province of Malabar (1792-93) gives the names as Amra, Sowlea and Ersawaraseemy. Amra and Sowlea were in the region below the hills on the side towards Mangalore, and Ersawaraseemy was claimed by Tipu to be part of the Taluk of Belur.—(p. 276 of the Report.)

3. Ahmady Sircar (p. 299)—Tipu called his Government *Sarkar-i-Khudadad*, Government given by God. It was also known as *Ahmadi Sarkar* and *Sarkar-i-Asad ilahi*.—Mohibbul Hasan Khan, *History of Tipu Sultan*, p. 332.

No. 26—30 November 1793.

1. Instructions of Lord Cornwallis to Major Palmer (p. 308)—See *Political Letter to Court*, 3 September 1792, para. 26, and *Political Letter from Court*, 25 June 1793, para. 14.

2. By the Charlotte cutter (p. 309)—*Political Letter to Court*, 5 November 1793.

3. Bencoolen (p. 309)—Benkulam or Fort Marlborough. It was the Company's principal settlement on the island of Sumatra. In 1824 it was exchanged for Malacca, a Dutch possession.

No. 27—17 January 1794.

1. Coolagurry [Solagherry] (p. 310)—The suggested alternative reading is based on *Original Political Consultation*, 16 December 1793, no. 12. Sola-

No. 34—18 August 1794.

1. The Cherocar of Shevigunga (p. 344)—The reference is to Chinna Murdoo Shevekar (corruptly Cherocar), the minister of the Zamindar of Sivaganga (Shevigunga). (*Political Proceedings*, 7 July 1794, nos. 1-16.) The Murdoo brothers were regarded as "the *de facto* rulers of the country, not only by the inhabitants but also by the British Government".—J. H. Nelson, *The Madura Country—A Manual* (Madras, 1868), Part IV, p. 160.

2. By the Sugarcane (p. 345)—See *Political Letter to Court*, 15 May 1794, para. 10.

3. Cambay (p. 350)—The port of Cambay in Kathiawad commanded access to the northern parts of Gujarat and lay on the direct sea-route to Bombay and Surat. It was a great centre of commerce throughout the medieval period, but its importance had declined towards the close of the 18th century. The Company was desirous of acquiring it from its Muslim ruler, but political considerations stood in the way.

4. The depredations of fakeers and sonnassies (p. 354)—*Faqir* (fakeer) is a Muslim religious mendicant, and *sanyasi* (sonnassy) is a Hindu religious mendicant. The names *sanyasi* and *faqir* were applied familiarly in Bengal to a body of freebooters who worked under cover of belonging to a religious fraternity.

No. 35—28 August 1794.

1. For His Excellency's sanction (p. 359)—In the MS. the sentence ends here and paragraph 13 commences. But this appears to be a copyist's mistake.

No. 36—30 December 1794.

1. Letter by the Nancy packet (p. 362)—*Political letter to Court*, 18 August 1794.

2. Bombay Presidency (p. 366)—Shore had a poor opinion of the Bombay Government. In his letter written in 1796 he speaks of "the accumulated filth of the Augean State of Bombay."—Lord Teignmouth, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 361.

3. Revenue for 969 (p. 367)—The reference is to the *Kollam* Era prevalent in Malabar, which commenced on 15 August 825 A.D.—T. K. Velu Pillai, *The Travancore State Manual*. Vol. II (Travancore, 1940), p. 52.

4. Pannela (p. 371)—Panhala. It was the seat of the Kolhapur Government from 1705-82, when it was moved to Kolhapur.

5. Kuleeat (p. 374)—*Kulliat*—political differences, general claims as opposed to *jusviat* or financial details. The British Resident was kept to the last ignorant of the *Kulliat* or general claims based on the Treaty of Edgheer (1784), probably because the provisions in the treaty which were inimical to the interests of the Company would have exposed the anti-British activities of the Nizam at that time.

6. Jow Laul (p. 379)—Raja Jhao Lal, popularly known as Lalluji, was the principal favourite of the Nawab Vazir Asaf-ud-daulah. His influence in the Court reached its peak in 1794-96. On the dismissal of the Vazir's

No. 32—15 May 1794.

1. Between Chungama and the Policode Pass (p. 329)—Both were important routes leading from Mysore to the Carnatic.

2. Corringotte (p. 330)—Kurangod in Kottayam Taluk, Malabar. The region surrounding Tellicherry belonged to the Raja of Kurangod.—*Report of a Joint Commission from Bengal and Bombay on Malabar, 1792-3*, p. 75. Inns, *op. cit.*, p. 58.

3. Publish a proclamation (p. 335)—The proclamation issued to the chiefs and people of Assam stated that the British intervention was solely due to the humane object of expelling the *barkandasses* and restoring tranquillity in the country and that the object being achieved the Company's troops would be withdrawn within three months. The Rajas and Sardars of Assam were invited to assemble at a meeting "for the purpose of concerting proper measures for the restoration of good government, and the peace and tranquillity of the country". "They are hereby assured", the proclamation said, "that they shall be left free and unmolested to make such arrangements as they may think proper to adopt, that the English Government will neither employ their troops in supporting Rajah *Surgeo Deo*, nor any other person, nor interfere in their choice of measures, or in the appointment of officers or Ministers, for executing the duties of Government, that their sole wish is to see order and tranquillity established, and that this being done, the English troops will immediately leave Assam and return to Bengal."—*Political Proceedings*, 19 March 1794. no. 17.

No. 33—31 May 1794.

1. Colonel Floyed (p. 338)—The representation against Col. Floyd related to certain alleged misconduct of his officers and men against the populace at Trichinopoly Fort.—*Political Proceedings*, 28 May 1794, no. 13.

2. The ground of the claims (p. 340)—The famous eight demands of Nana Phadnis on the Nizam referred primarily to the Maratha demand for *Chauth* and *Sardeshmukhi*.—H. Fraser, *Our Faithful Ally, the Nizam*, Appendix J.

3. The Guntoor Sirkar (p. 340)—The Northern Circars (the districts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Godavari, Kistna and Guntur) were conquered by the British in 1765, and held as a fief from the Mughal Emperor. Under a treaty of 1765, the Nizam, who was the overlord of the Carnatic, was paid nine lakhs as *peshkash*, and promised a subsidiary force when required. By a treaty of 1768 the *peshkash* was reduced to seven lakhs, and the subsidiary force limited to two battalions, the Nizam defraying their cost. Guntur was held as a *jagir* by the brother of the Nizam, and it was to revert to the Company after his death, which occurred in 1782; but it was only after long delay and tedious negotiations that it was handed over to the British in 1788.

4. Moamareeahs (p. 342)—Moamarias, a Vaishnavite sect in upper Assam, most of whose members were drawn from the lower Hindu castes. The Moamarias were subjected to severe persecution by the Ahom Kings and they played an important part in their overthrow.

Asoph-ud-Dowlah, and the Nawab Mahomed Alli Khan, that they shall in every respect maintain peace towards the Peshwa and his allies, the Nawab Nizam Alli Khan and Ragojee Bhonsla Syna Saheb and the English further engage on their own behalf, as well as on behalf of their allies, that they will maintain peace also towards the Nawab Hyder Alli Khan under the conditions specified in the 9th article of this treaty.' The main condition *inter alia* was that Haidar should return within six months of the ratification of the treaty all the territories he had recently taken from the English and the Nawab of Arcot.—Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. VII, p. 41.

2. Letter by the Essex (p. 409)—*Political Letter to Court*, 4 February 1795.

3. Address of the 4th of February (p. 410)—The MS. reads "Address of the 31st of January". No letter was issued to the Court of Directors from the Political Branch on this date. It appears that the reference is to the 16th and subsequent paragraphs of *Political Letter to Court*, dated 4 February 1795.

4. Sicca rupees (p. 411)—The term *sicca* was the designation of the silver currency of the Mughal Emperors. To put an end to the confusion and abuses prevalent in the currency system of the times, the Company issued in 1778 a *sicca* rupee bearing the impress of the 19th year of the reigning Emperor Shah Alam, and from 1793 to 1836 it was legal tender in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.

No. 39—21 March 1795.

1. Letter by the Rose (p. 412)—*Political Letter to Court*, 30 December 1794.

2. By the Pitt (p. 413)—*Political Letter to Court*, 6 March 1795.

No. 40—12 May 1795.

1. Being still in arms (p. 415)—This was due to the fact that Narayan Raju, a minor son of Viziamra Raju, had sought the protection of the hill zamindars who were disposed to raise the standard of revolt in his favour but for the presence of the Company's army in the neighbourhood. After protracted negotiations Narayan Raju surrendered. Some portion of the original estate was sequestered and the hill chiefs were removed from the Raja's control and brought under direct relations with the Company.—*Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Vol. XXV (Oxford 1908), p. 341.

2. The Rajah of Colasary (p. 415)—This is a zamindari spread over the North Arcot, Nellore and Cuddalore Districts of the Madras State. It should not be confused with Colachel in Malabar, the raja of which is often referred to in the correspondence as Colasary Raja.

3. Fixed by the Treaty p. 415—The reference is to the treaty concluded between the Nawab of Arcot and the Company on 12 July 1762.—Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. X, p. 63.

4. Which as well as of p. 415—These words are not in the MS. The reading given here is based on *Political Proceedings of April 1795*, p. 61.

5. Cons. 30th March p. 415—This appears to be a reference to the

Ministers Hasan Raza and Tikait Rai in June 1796 he became all powerful. He was suspected of plotting against the English and was banished by Sir John Shore in 1797.—Basu, *op. cit.*, pp. 20-22.

7. Dajura Nullah (p. 384)—Dojora (Dajura) is a rivulet joining Ramaganga. The Rohilla forces crossed it at Mirganj, 21 miles north-west of Bareilly. The Company's forces were located on the Sankha river, also a tributary to Ramaganga, about 7 miles from Bareilly. The battle was fought at the village Bhitaura, 12 miles north-west of Bareilly, and the village was renamed Fatehganj to commemorate the victory. It is called Fatehganj West to distinguish it from Fatehganj East, which was built by Shuja-ud-daulah to commemorate his victory over the Rohillas in the battle of Miranpur Katra in 1774.—H. R. Neville, *Gazetteer of the Bareilly District* (Allahabad, 1908), p. 235. and *Gazetteer of the Rampur State* (Allahabad, 1911), pp. 94-5.

8. Reher (p. 388)—The MSS. spell the word as "Reyah", and "Rujah". *Political Proceedings*, 17 November 1794, no. 7, spells it "Reher". Rehar is a small decayed town, 7 miles east from Afzalgarh in Bijnor District, United Provinces.—H. R. Neville, *Bijnor: A Gazetteer* (Allahabad, 1908), pp. 295-6.

9. Sonaut rupees (p. 401)—The term *sanwat* (corruptly *sonaut*) is derived from Arabic *sanat* or year. It was applied in Bengal to rupees in the third year of their currency when their value in comparison with the money of account or current rupee was reduced from 16 per cent to 11 per cent above the latter; that is, the rupee was rated in the first year of its issue at 116 to 100 current rupees, and in the third and ever after, at 111 to 100 current rupees. To put a stop to the arbitrary devaluation of the coins for exchange purposes, the Government of Bengal in 1778 determined that all rupees coined in future should bear the impression of the 19th *san* or year of Shah Alam (the Mughal Emperor then reigning) irrespective of the year of issue. In all later uses of the term *sonaut* appears to be equivalent in value to Farrukabadi rupee or the "Company's rupee" introduced in 1836, containing about 165 grains of pure silver.

No. 37—4 February 1795.

1. Letter by the Rose (p. 402)—In this letter references to the dispatch by the Rose is to *Political Letter to Court*; 30 December 1794.

2. Lieutenant Mowat (p. 403)—The MS. has "Licutenant Moirat". The reading given here is based on *Original Political Consultation*, 16 January 1795, no. 17.

No. 38—6 March 1795.

1. Treaty of Salbye (p. 407)—Article 10 of the Treaty of Salbai concluded in 1782 laid down, "The Peshwa engages, on his own behalf as well as on behalf of his allies, the Nawab Nizam Alli Khan, Ragojee Bhonsla Syna Saheb Soubah and the Nawab Hyder Ali Khan, that they shall, in every respect, maintain peace towards the English and their allies, the Nawab Asoph-ud-Dowlah Bahadur and the Nawab Mahomed Alli Khan Bahadur, and shall in no respect whatever give them any disturbance. The English engage on their behalf, as well as on behalf of the allies, the Nawab

Singh, who was guilty of oppressive rule, had been deposed and a new ruler had been seated on the throne. News was later received that this pretender was assassinated. The statement that Gaurinath Singh had been deposed was incorrect, but the Governor General in Council having no representative in Assam did not have correct information on the subject; the claim put forward on behalf of the pretender was taken to be a fact and the matter was reported wrongly to the Court in this letter.—*Political Proceedings*, 30 March 1795, no. 17; 10 April 1795, no. 23. S. K. Bhuyan, *Anglo-Assamese Relations*, pp. 389-91.

19. Captain Symes (p. 426)—Michael Symes (1753-1809), soldier and diplomat, noted for his two missions to Burma in 1795 and 1802-3. An account of his first embassy was published by him in 1800.

No. 41—18 August 1795.

1. By the Royal Admiral (p. 428)—In this letter references to the dispatch sent by the *Royal Admiral* are to *Political Letter to Court*, 12 May 1795.

2. Treaty of Eedghir (p. 429)—The treaty was concluded on 20 June 1784, and it was primarily an offensive and defensive alliance between the Nizam and the Peshwa directed against Tipu. For the text of the Treaty of Eedghir as well as of the treaty concluded between the Peshwa and the Nizam, see V. G. Dighe (Ed.), *Maratha-Nizam Relations, 1792-95*, Poona Residency Correspondence, Vol. IV, pp. 303-18.

3. By the Treaty (p. 432)—The reference is to Article 6 of the treaty concluded by the Company with the Nawab of the Carnatic and the Nizam in 1768.—Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. IX, p. 27.

4. The Colastry Rajah (p. 435)—The raja of Chirakkal belonged to the family of Kollatiri (Colastry). Family dissensions led to the dismemberment of Kolattanad and the rise of a number of minor rulers. The eldest male member of the family was the Kollatiri. The reference here appears to be to the coronation of the Chirakkal Raja as the Kollatiri.—Innes, *op. cit.*, p. 396. William Logan, *Malabar*, Vol. I, p. 476. Also, *Political Proceedings*, 22 May 1795, nos. 22-8.

5. The Laccadive Islands (p. 435)—A group of coral atolls lying off the Malabar Coast belonging to the Ali Rajas of Cannanore.

6. The misappropriations of the Dewan (p. 436)—The *Dewan* of Travancore at this time was Kesava Pillai. As against the charges of misappropriation referred to in this letter it may be noted that Wellesley had a very high opinion of him and conferred upon him the title of Raja. It is well known that the Madras Government was prejudiced against the Travancore authorities.

7. 46th (p. 437)—The MS. has 42d., but this is incorrect.

8. Teje Singh (p. 438)—The MS. has Tage Singh. The reading given here is based on *Original Political Consultation*, 6 July 1795, no. 5.

9-10. "53rd paragraph" and "54th paragraph" (p. 438)—The MS. has "49th paragraph" and "50th paragraph" respectively, but these are incorrect.

11. Raneghur (p. 439)—This is presumably a copyist's error and should be Ramghur or Ramgarh, an old district of the Bengal Presidency.

The subject matter of this consultation has no bearing either on paragraph 4 or 5.

6. General Macleod (p. 418)—The reference is to a charge made by the Bibi of Cannanore that certain sums of money were extorted from her by General Macleod at the time of the reduction of Cannanore in 1784.—*Political Proceedings*, 17 April 1792, no. 2.

7. Address by the Dart (p. 418)—*Political Letter to Court*, 21 March 1795.

8. As noticed in the margin (p. 418)—No references are given in the margin of the MS.

9. With an army nearly equal (p. 418)—This is scarcely correct. The Maratha forces by all accounts greatly outnumbered the Nizam's.

10. 85,00,000 (p. 419)—The MS. has "8,50,000". The reading given here is based on *Political Proceedings*, 8 May 1795, no. 2(a).

11. Durbar charges (p. 420)—These were civil contingencies for the benefit of the civil officers of government who had been employed during the war. This was a usual item in treaties concluded at the time. Under the Treaty of Seringapatam Tipu had to pay thirty lakhs to the allies under this head.

12. Encroachments (p. 421)—The MS. has "Encouragements". The reading given here is based on *Political Proceedings*, 20 April 1795, no. 9.

13. Macherry (p. 421)—Macheri is situated in Alwar, Rajputana. In the latter half of the 18th century Rao Pratap Singh developed it into the modern Alwar State.

14. Lacawa Dada (p. 421)—Lakshman Anant Lad, popularly known as Lakhwa Dada, a Maratha Brahmin who was entrusted with the administration of Agra when Mahadji Sindia left for Poona in 1792.

15. Emtyazy (p. 423)—*Imtiyazi* from Arabic *imtiyaz*, literally, to treat with distinction. The reference here is to personal pensions.—Basu, *op. cit.*, p. 110.

16. 6th of March (p. 423)—The MS. reads "16 of March". No letter was issued to the Court of Directors from the Political Branch on this date. It appears that the reference is to the 15th paragraph of the *Political Letter to Court*, dated 6 March 1795.

17. [Paragraph] 45 (p. 424)—It will be noticed that there is no paragraph 44. The numbering of paragraphs is true to text, but it is clearly defective. From *Political Department Letter* dated 22 April 1796 received from the Court of Directors it is seen that the copy despatched to the Court of Directors contained in all 59 paragraphs. Presumably some of the paragraphs of this letter were treated as sub-paragraphs, or they were omitted at the time of despatch.

18. Sree Rajesser Singh (p. 425)—After the withdrawal of Welsh from Assam in 1794 certain officers and chiefs opposed to the reigning king Gaurinath Singh set up a pretender whom they claimed to be the great grandson of Rajeswar Singh, an ancient king of Assam, and in a letter dated 9 February 1795 addressed to the Government of Bengal announced that Gaurinath

No. 47—15 May 1794.

1-2. "Confining" and "numbers" (p. 467)—The MS. has "confirming" and "members". The readings given here are based on *Secret Proceedings*, 9 May 1794, no. 12.

3. Diminution (p. 469)—The MS. has "determination". The reading given here is based on *Secret Proceedings*, 9 May 1794, no. 12.

4. Himself (p. 470)—The MS. has "myself". The reading given here is based on *Secret Proceedings*, 9 May 1794, no. 12.

5. "Is attributed" (p. 470)—These words are not in the MS. The reading given here is based on *Secret Proceedings*, 9 May 1794, no. 12.

6. From (p. 471)—This word is not in the MS. The reading given here is based on *Secret Proceedings*, 9 May 1794, no. 12.

7. Without (p. 472)—The MS. has "with". The reading given here is based on *Secret Proceedings*, 9 May 1794, no. 12.

8. 5,000 men (p. 472)—The MS. has 500 men, but it should be 5,000 men. See page 466 above.

No. 48—31 May 1794.

1. The best quality (p. 475)—The MS. has "pease". The reading given here is based on *Secret Proceedings*, 23 May 1794, no. 6.

2. Terms (p. 475)—This word is not in the MS. The reading given here is based on *Secret Proceedings*, 19 May 1794, no. 1.

3. Without personal communication with (p. 475)—The MS. reads "with personal communication as".—The reading given here is based on *Secret Proceedings*, 19 May 1794, no. 1.

4-5. "We saw", "and" (p. 475)—These words are not in the MS. The readings given here are based on *Secret Proceedings*, 23 May 1794, no. 7.

6. Letter (p. 475)—The MS. has "late". The reading given here is based on *Secret Proceedings*, 23 May 1794, no. 7.

7. Expedition (p. 476)—After this the word "which" appears in the text, but this seems to be a mistake.

8. Reasons (p. 476)—The MS. has "measures". The reading given here is based on *Secret Proceedings*, 23 May 1794, no. 7.

No. 51—25 August 1794.

1. Select Committee of Supra Cargoes at Canton (p. 481)—The Chinese merchants with whom the Company's agents transacted business were termed Hong merchants, expressly licensed by the Chinese Government to have dealings with them. The designation of the official agents of the Company was "Supra Cargoes": they were united in one commission and the four senior generally were termed the president and select committee.—Peter Auber, *An Analysis of the Constitution of the East India Company*, p. 149.

No. 52—30 December 1794.

1. Commodore Rainier (p. 485)—Peter Rainier (1741 ?-1833) was sent out to the East Indies as Commodore and Commander in Chief in 1794, and

No. 42—31 October 1795.

1. Shudda Sheo Reddy (p. 443)—Sadashiv Reddi. Fraser describes him as one of the leading zamindars in the state.—Fraser, *op. cit.*, pp. 162-3.

2. Siam Rauj, the Roy Royan (p. 444)—Shyam Raj, the *Roy Royan*, was the chief treasurer of the exchequer, and at a time when the huge Maratha indemnity had to be paid he naturally became the most influential minister in Hyderabad.

3. Ammarpoorah (p. 448)—Amarapura or "the City of the Immortals" on the river Irrawadi in Upper Burma was founded by King Bodawpaya in 1783 and the capital was shifted from Ava to this place.

SECRET LETTERS

No. 44—27 April 1792.

1. The Jewells that belonged to the deceased Ragoba (p. 450)—In 1775 Raghunatha Rao, the brother of Peshwa Baji Rao II, commonly called Raghoba, borrowed large sums of money from the Bombay Government pledging certain jewels with them as security. After the end of the Maratha war and the death of Raghoba, Nana Phadnis offered to pay off the debt, which amounted to over six lakhs of rupees, and obtain the jewels for the Maratha State. While the negotiations for the tripartite alliance against Tipu were proceeding in 1789, Cornwallis recommended to the Home Government the remission of the debt and the return of the jewels as a token of goodwill. The recommendation was accepted, and the jewels which had been, in the meanwhile, sent to England were returned to India.—G. S. Sardesai, (Ed.), *Poona Affairs, 1786-97*, Poona Residency Correspondence, Vol. II, p. 13.

2. Negotiations that had been opened by Hyat Saib with Nizam Ally Khan (p. 451)—Shaikh Ayaz, commonly called Hayat Saheb in most English accounts, had deserted Tipu in 1782 and was living under British protection. Objection was taken to the secret negotiations that were said to have taken place between him and the Nizam. General Medows was directed to put it diplomatically to the Nizam that he should "refrain from entering into any correspondence with the princes or natives of the country without having previously obtained the consent and approbation of the Bombay Government for that purpose".—*Secret Letter to Court*, 10 January 1790, paras. 7-9.

3. And we consulted Mr. Burroughs who was present at the Board (p. 458)—The MS. reads "Mr. Burroughs and we consulted who was present at the Board". The reading given here is based on *Secret Proceedings*, 15 February 1792, no. 8.

No. 46—3 September 1792.

1. Letter dated 3 September 1792 (p. 464)—This letter is found among *Political Letters to Court*, but it appears to have got in there by mistake. From the *Secret Proceedings* of 7 September 1792 it is seen that the letter was sent from the Secret Branch to the Court. The subject matter of the letter also does not concern the Political Branch.

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remained on the East India Station till 1804. His principal duties were to provide for the safety of the British settlements and the security of the British trade. He assisted in the reduction of Trincomalee in August 1795, and of Amboyana and Banda Neira in February-March 1796.

No. 54—27 July 1795.

1. By the Portuguese at Goa (p. 489)—This was in pursuance of the orders of the Court addressed to the Government of Bombay dated 24 March 1795, copy of which was sent to Bengal. The Court instructed that attention should be paid to "the security of that invaluable place".

No. 56—31 October 1795.

1. To Columbo with a view to sounding (p. 499)—The MS. reads "of Columbo with a view to seconding". The reading given here is based on *Secret Proceedings*, 16 October 1795, no. 1.

2. Admiral Elphinstone (p. 500)—George Keith Viscount Keith Elphinstone (1746-1823). When the French invaded Holland, and the English were at war with the Republican Dutch, there was the danger of the British Colonies falling into the hands of the French. To prevent this from happening, Elphinstone, who had a distinguished naval career and was reputed for his knowledge of the East, was appointed Commander in Chief of the expedition and of the whole squadron in the Indian waters in 1795. He captured Cape Town, and, according to plan, he was to proceed to Ceylon to take the Dutch settlements there. But this work had been nearly accomplished by the time he reached India in January 1796. He then returned to the Cape and finally to England in 1797.

3. The Battalion (p. 501)—As a punishment the 15th Battalion was broken with infamy and its colours burned in November 1795.—W. Seton-Karr, *Selections from Calcutta Gazette*, Vol. II, p. 170.

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